

# Kenyon College

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The Kenyon Collegian

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# the Kenyon Collegian

Serving Gambier, Ohio Since 1856

## Gender-Neutral Housing Coming This Spring

CATHERINE WEITZEL

In addition to new apartment options, Kenyon students will soon gain an even greater variety of housing opportunities. The College gave gender-neutral housing a try this year, offering students the choice to live with roommates of the opposite gender. Because of its success and an overwhelmingly positive response to discussions regarding this issue, Kenyon will offer gender-neutral housing in many upperclassmen areas next year.

“Basically, we will permit upper-class students to choose a roommate of any gender,” said Rebecca Driesen, assistant director for housing and residential life for Mather and McBride Halls. “It’s not across campus in every building; there will still be some specific buildings and halls, plenty of them, that will serve the single-gender experience, but we wanted to accommodate a variety of needs. To live in a gender-neutral area, you wouldn’t have to choose someone of another gender as a roommate, but you could.”

Assistant Dean of Students for Housing and Residential Life and First-Year Dean Alicia Dugas also emphasized the importance of students’ abilities to choose living situations that make them most comfortable. “It’s all about options — we want students to be able to

choose what is right for them,” she said.

Though the big-picture aspect of gender-neutral housing is relatively simple, working out the logistics of the new living situations will take some thought. “Whenever you’re changing things, it’s really good to have a big idea, but it always comes out to those little details, and one of those things is that we’ve been talking about, well, what will this mean for our bathrooms?” Driesen said. “We recognize that not every student is going to want this; not every student is going to want to share a bathroom with people of any gender. So we’re looking at those areas with multiple bathrooms on a floor for having one or two single-gender and one all-gender; that way we can really make sure no one’s being marginalized.” This way, ResLife can ensure the comfort of the greatest possible number of students.

Kenyon will not be the first to implement this housing policy, according to Rachel Walsh ’12, head of the Housing and Dining Committee. “There are several schools of our caliber and size that are also moving towards this housing system,” she said.

Four students are currently living in gender-neutral housing in Mather, according to Walsh.

see *GENDER*, page 2

## Middle Path To Be Resurfaced



MARIKA GARLAND

The College is considering high-tech updates to make the pitted and puddled Middle Path winter-friendly.

AUGUST STEIGMEYER

It took a core-sampling machine to answer the perennial question: does Middle Path need paving?

An auger machine took samples of the walkway over Thanksgiving break as part of a plan to re-landscape several areas at Kenyon. The College hired landscape architects to devise a master plan for the aesthetic future of the campus. The architects will submit their suggestions to the trustees, who make final decisions about landscaping this spring.

No tree roots were found under Middle Path, according to President S. Georgia Nugent,

which means the surface of the path can undergo change without adversely affecting the nearby trees. With this information in mind, the architects proposed a plan to lay down a new surface on the path, then cover it with the original gravel, creating a four-inch layer of stabilized gravel.

“[It] looks almost exactly like the gravel looks now, but what it would provide is better drainage, and it stabilizes the path,” Nugent said. “Over the course of the year, Middle Path gets wider and wider. With this, it remains within the appropriate boundaries.”

The same company that trucked the auger machine to

campus also installed test drainage tubes along Middle Path. “These tubes are used to measure how long it takes for water to be absorbed in to the surrounding ground,” Chief Business Officer Mark Kohlman said in an email. “This will help design how water is removed from the path.”

The College may install a test strip of the new material under one of the gravel paths that diverges at Old Kenyon. “So people can see it so they have a sense of what it will look like,” Nugent said. “The notion is to restore it to what it was meant to be.”

The landscape architects were on campus last week to

see *PATH*, page 3

## Phling Pie Cut Into Small Slices

Organizations across campus have banded together to win funds previously reserved for Phling.

GRACE HITZEMAN

After receiving six applications, the Phebruary Phunds Committee announced that collaborative proposals to hold a semi-formal party and to bring rapper Mike Stud and DJ gLAdiator to campus received the \$10,000 made available after the cancellation of Philander’s Phling.

“The Horn Gallery, Peeps,

PEAS [People Endorsing Agrarian Sustainability], ECO [Environmental Campus Organization] and the Food Co-Op are combining the Black and White Ball and the Valentine’s Day party and making it a ‘Black, White and Red All Over’ event to be in the Horn Gallery,” said Director of Student Activities and Greek Life Christina Mastrangelo. “So it’s going to be a formal/semi-

formal event. They’re going to have the jazz band, and PEAS, ECO and the Food Co-Op are going to help make the food.” Chelsea Farco ’12, who served on the committee, added that the event will be DJ-ed by WKCO.

Mastrangelo also revealed that the KAC Heads got funding to bring the rapper Mike Stud to campus and Social Board is going to bring DJ gLAdiator to campus to host a

see *PHUNDS*, page 4

## BFC Funding 2011

CALEB BISSINGER

Even the largest student organizations saw their budgets shrink this fall, but the Business and Finance Committee (BFC) allocated over \$127,000 to student organizations for the coming semester, meeting 77 percent of budget requests. This figure represents a massive jump from this semester, when they met only 36 percent of requests.

BFC Co-Chair Rob Mueller ’12 attributed the spike in allocations to more conservative requests from organizations. “I think people requested less money this semester,” he said. Mueller added that the BFC’s overall budget saw a marginal increase after cuts to the Mount Vernon Shuttle. The Horn Gallery received \$22,000, 84 percent of its total request and a \$3,000 increase from this fall. They now surpass Social Board as the College’s most

see *BFC*, page 5

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Students and faculty lace up their dancing shoes to support Russian orphanages.



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Senior artists open their studios, sharing vision and process, method and magic.



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Despite a strong showing, Lords place second at the Kenyon invitational.



# Student-Professor Collaboration Garner National Attention

Research in the psychology department has sparked national debate.

GRACE HITZEMAN

A study co-authored by Professor of Psychology Sarah Murnen, Professor Emerita of Psychology Linda Smolak, Samantha Goodin '10 and Alyssa Van Denburg '12 has recently garnered national media attention, including mentions in *Time* and *The Huffington Post*.

Entitled "Putting on Sexiness: A Content Analysis of the Presence of Sexualizing Characteristics in Girls' Clothing," the study encompasses 15 different websites and 5,666 clothing items, according to Van Denburg. "Over 30 percent of the clothing items we coded had sexualizing characteristics and, of all store types, tween stores sold the largest proportion of sexualizing clothing items," she said.

"Clearly the tween stores had the most sexualizing clothes and I think girls know that," Murnen said. "They know where to go to get the clothes that make them feel more popular, more grown up."

Murnen said she does not blame the girls that choose the clothing. "I understand why they like

it — the culture is telling them this is great."

The study coded girls' clothing items into five different categories: childlike, sexualizing, ambiguously sexualizing (both sexualizing and childlike elements), adult and other, a category few pieces fit. "Ambiguously sexualizing is by far what we saw the most of," Murnen said. She added that an example of an "ambiguously sexualized" article of clothing would be a low-cut top that was polka-dotted.

The "adult" category was not that frequent, but it was considerably more prevalent in high-end department stores than in the lower end, according to Murnen. Murnen again recognized that tween stores were the biggest offenders. "Abercrombie Kids, which is the worst store we examined, had a padded bikini bathing suit for young girls. What essentially that does is make it look like a little girl has breasts."

It's not just Abercrombie, however. "Other than the children's stores like Gymboree, everybody did have some sexualizing clothing, so I think it is a trend that hasn't re-

ally been resisted by many stores," Murnen said. "I was disappointed to see it at Target, for example."

Murnen blames culture for this trend. "We live in a capitalist society that sells a lot of products, so there is going to be this media pressure for people to become interested in those products." The demand itself, Murnen believes, comes from society's urge for a fast-paced childhood. "I do think this whole cultural emphasis encouraging girls to grow up so fast is not healthy, and the way to grow up fast is to look older," she said.

Another factor might be that "our culture tells women and girls that sexiness is a form of power — so it's not surprising that girls will be interested in this," Murnen said.

"They think it is a form of power, but what we've found from other research is that girls who are sexualized are seen as less competent." Her suggestion to override this cultural influence is "to be critical of the messages that young people, girls in this case, are given from the culture. ... This message about sexiness being



COURTESY OF SARAH MURNEN

Murnen's study, which has been cited by *Time* and *The Huffington Post*, examined 5,666 clothing items to understand the growing sexualization of pre-teen life.

powerful needs to be critiqued."

Van Denburg agreed. "There is a huge need for awareness and advocacy," she added. "Consumers need to be selective in clothing purchases for young girls and to be willing to contact customer service and corporate offices to advocate for more child-appropriate clothing."

This past week, Murnen traveled to London to attend the conference "Sexualization of Girls and Girls' Sexual Development," sponsored by

The University of London's Institute of Education and Economic and Social Research Council. Part of her purpose in attending the conference was to examine how "England is doing more [than America]," Murnen said. "They issued a report earlier this summer on this whole issue of sexualization and this commercialized culture which plays a big role in all this. And their retailers have agreed not to sell sexualized clothing [to young girls]."

On the findings of the study, Murnen noted, "We

don't really know what the consequences of this message are, but we do think there are ways which girls are getting the message that they're supposed to present themselves as sexy. ... I'm also concerned that any kind of focus on appearance to this extent — paying this much attention to what you wear — leads to so much attention on the body. We know that this isn't healthy. ... It can lead to body dissatisfaction, ultimately to serious problems like depression, eating disorders and sexual dysfunction."

## Gender: New Housing Policy Seen as Boon for LGBTQ Students

continued from page 1

All had to apply for the housing, but the application will not be necessary in the future. The process will be greatly simplified at the upcoming housing lottery.

"There won't be red and blue dots on rooms in the floor plans at the housing lottery indicating female or male rooms," Dugas said. "Instead, students of any gender can pick any room, with a roommate of the same gender or opposite." Some areas, like Watson, Bushnell and Manning Halls, will remain as they are now, to provide single-gender housing to those who are more comfortable in that situation.

One of the major reasons this concept has been so well-received is related to students' responses in the recent Quality of Life survey. "We added three questions to the end of the survey to gauge how students were feeling about the proposal," Walsh said. "One, how would they feel living in an area that was gender-neutral housing? Two, would they want to live in that type of housing? And then how they feel about bathrooms?"

Of the 963 students who responded to the survey, 48.18 percent said they would consider living in a gender-neutral area with a roommate of either gender, and 28.76 percent said they would consider living there with a roommate of the same gender. Only 23.05 percent of students said they would not live in a gender-neutral area.

The feedback, needless to say, has been encouraging. "So far it's been really positive, and even in my informal interactions with students about the change it's been something they're really looking forward to, something really worthwhile, which is affirming for us," Driesen said.

While many students are excited by the policy change, some parents may not be too thrilled. "I wouldn't have been entirely surprised if we heard comments from parents," President S. Georgia Nugent said. "My guess would be that an argument that people could make against it is they don't want romantically involved, erotically involved couples living together. That would be the first place that I would think parents might go."

Some students, however, ar-

gue that objections like these overshadow the real value of gender-neutral housing.

Many students are excited to see the campus moving toward a more inclusive housing situation. "My housing situation would have been different this year if gender-neutral housing was a possibility," said Sara Carminati '13. "It's a way to make the campus a far more open and welcoming place. This opens up our community to include intersex or transgender individuals, which is a great thing."

Robbie Sellers '14, Unity House co-manager felt similarly. "Gender-neutral housing is necessary for the college community because it provides a safe and comfortable housing situation for LGBTQ [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning] students," he said.

The new proposal will benefit the LGBTQ community, but the College hopes it will achieve more than that. "I think that there's no way to talk about gender-neutral housing and not say, 'Well, it does serve those students who are GLBT or identify as that,' and I think that's awesome. We should be serving those students," Dri-

esen said. "But I don't think those are the only students that it serves. It's cool when you can do something that serves a community that historically has been marginalized, but also serves a broader community."

In attempting to serve the broader community, however, some students may not feel so comfortable. Daniel Akuma '14, an international student from Nigeria, expressed some concerns. "I suggest that international students be conferred with immensely on this issue," he said. "A lot of international students come from cultures where single-gender-by-room residences like McBride need some getting used to, not to talk of single-gender-by-half-of-the-room. While a few of the students might overcome the culture shock speedily, knowing that not everything is going to be like home here, a lot of others will likely find this difficult to live with. Even if all of us are at home with the idea, a lot of our parents freak out on issues like this. Seriously, this is the sort of things they look at when consenting to our studying a thousand miles away from home."

Parents may have a hard time

adjusting to this new idea. "For parents, the concept is a little more shocking than to our generation because it is such a new idea out there," Walsh said. "But I think it's a really positive thing, and we want to make as many students feel as comfortable as we can on this campus."

The accommodation of a variety of needs and situations is, undeniably, a main goal of the gender-neutral housing project. Driesen stressed that Kenyon students, as adults, are responsible enough to be able to determine the best living situation for themselves.

"This change is really about offering more options to our students and recognizing that people — adults — get to choose who they live with," she said. "We want our students to be able to do that, to be comfortable in their homes. It's not about choosing something for someone; it's a completely opt-in policy. It's really empowering for students. Just the fact that it's there demonstrates how much of an inclusive community we are, and that's one of the really special things about Kenyon — its community — and this holds us to our own standards."







# First Lady Obama Taps Lynn for Scholarship Committee

MADELEINE  
THOMPSON

David Lynn, professor of English and editor of *The Kenyon Review*, is helping put Kenyon on the map. First Lady Michelle Obama chose him to participate in the National student Poets Program based on the recommendation of Lynn's friend Robert Casper, head of the Poetry and Literature Center in the Office of Scholarly Programs at the Library of Congress.

Obama, who announced the program on Nov. 21, is the honorary chair of the event's sponsor, the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities (PCAH), whose goal is to "plant and water the seeds of future artists."

The program's panel of judges will choose five finalists from the winners of Scholastic's Art and Writing Award to receive \$5,000 scholarships and serve as literary ambassadors in their communities. The judges include Lynn, Casper, poet Terrence Hayes and Alice Quinn from the Poetry Society of

America. Past winners of Scholastic's writing competition include Truman Capote, Sylvia Plath and Joyce Carol Oates.

"Part of the effort is for this to be locally and regionally based," Lynn said. "They're reaching out to local schools and libraries and local organizations so that there can be follow-up afterwards. The point is to encourage both these kids and others to continue writing."

Unlike past iterations of the program, this year's National Student Poets will be involved in encouraging the development of creative skills even after they win recognition. Once chosen, the students will begin a year of promoting poetry and creative writing, during which they will lead workshops and poetry readings in libraries, museums, and schools in their region. They may even get to work with the U.S. Department of Education.

"This is a really exciting time for writing in America," Lynn said. "For all the people complaining about how bad the schools are and that kids don't read,

in my experience there are lots of kids out there who care passionately about writing and reading and poetry. They're the kind of people who come to Kenyon."

"As the data consistently shows, students who are engaged with the arts do better in school and in life," Rachel Goslin, executive director of the PCAH said in a press release. "We can think of no better way to demonstrate these benefits than by engaging a class of talented and promising student poets to work with their peers and lead by example."

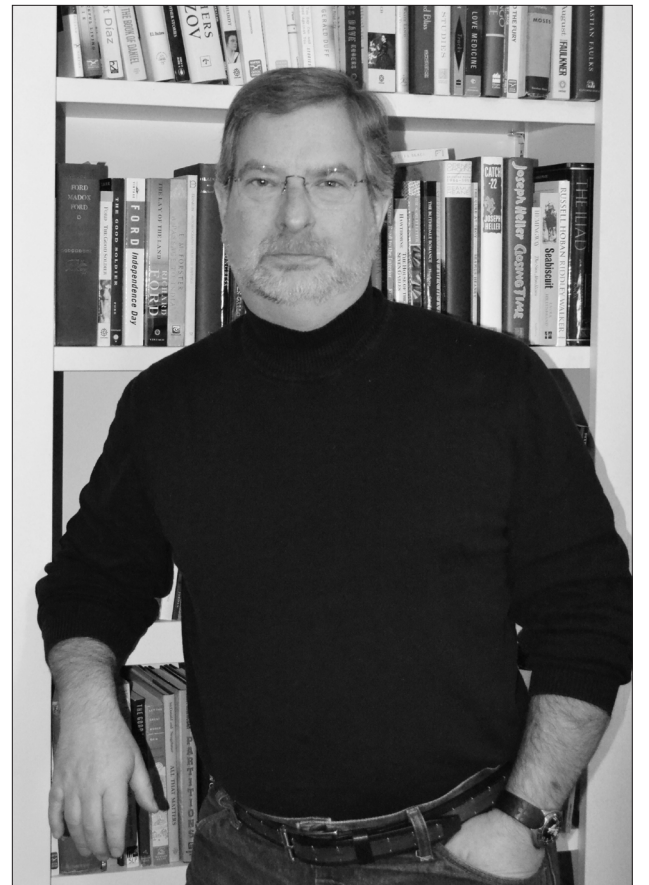
"The point is to have it be promoted nationally," Lynn said, "to have Michelle Obama make a fuss and to have all these other national organizations be involved."

The National Student Poets program will choose five new finalists every year starting this summer, and the hope is that it will have a lasting impact on not just the winners but also on small communities where the arts are not emphasized enough. The students chosen for

this honor are meant to be relatable and familiar so that creative writing is seen as something anyone can do.

"There's more good writing being done now in America than ever before in history," Lynn said, a champion of creative writing and published author himself. "There are a lot of reasons for that, and I think there are more people engaged seriously in writing partly because of all the writing programs."

Lynn plans to dovetail his efforts on that committee with a new program at the *Kenyon Review*. He recently revealed the KR Fellowships which will bring to Kenyon "two distinguished young people who have finished their M.F.A. (Master of Fine Arts) or Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) and are just beginning writing careers" for two years to teach, interact with students, and become a part of the community. "It's very exciting, and [Kenyon] students are going to love it," Lynn said. "Every two years the program will bring a fabulous poet and prose writer to Gambier."



MADELEINE THOMPSON

Last month, First Lady Michelle Obama named Professor David Lynn to a scholarship committee for budding poets.

Lynn is looking forward to all the new developments in the literary world that are coming up and the effects they will have on students and writers everywhere. "Poetry is the precise use

of language in a musical way. It's very important. What we're doing is trying to bring that awareness back," Lynn said. "If I get a hug from Michelle Obama, that would be great too."

## AIB Infractions Still High

Kenyon's Academic Infractions Board (AIB) reviewed a record-high 19 cases last year. AIB Chair and Professor of Philosophy Yang Xiao said this semester's numbers are not quite up to that level, but are still "disturbingly high." As of Dec. 4, the AIB has heard five cases, making this semester's average number of academic infraction cases per week about 0.3 cases. The average for the last academic year was around 0.5 cases per week.

Associate Provost and Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies Ric Sheffield, who oversees AIB cases, said increasing academic infractions are not unique to Kenyon. "It's fairly clear ... that what's going on here is happening around the country," Sheffield said. "There seems to be a trend in the direction of more frequent violations of academic policy."

The reason for this increase is not clear. It is now easy to "cut and paste information without citing it or to purchase a paper from online," Sheffield said. Advances in technology may not be the sole cause, however. "Others of us, myself included, are concerned about what we perceive to be heightened pressures," Sheffield said. "The literature is really suggesting that the highest-level students are more likely to cheat because they have the perception that they can't afford to get a B."

Plagiarism is the most common type of infraction at Kenyon, according to Sheffield. "In most cases, I don't think it was students' intention to plagiarize," he said. "I just don't think they were terribly meticulous or perhaps they weren't knowledgeable about the expectations of college writing."

Xiao urged students to "remain vigilant" about plagiarism and to "treat it as something as serious as stealing."

In the spirit of this vigilance, the AIB launched a campaign to raise consciousness about academic integrity earlier this week. The Board plans to leave pamphlets dispelling myths about plagiarism on tables in Peirce Hall. One such myth is that it is better to cheat than to earn a zero on an assignment. In actuality, however, in addition to the consequence of compromising one's integrity, the academic penalty for cheating at Kenyon is usually greater than the consequence of not turning in that assignment at all. Oftentimes, a convicted student will receive a zero on the assignment and the Board may double or triple its weight.

With finals approaching, Xiao urged students to manage time effectively and to take care to avoid cheating out of desperation or lack of forethought. "Sometimes people might do things they otherwise wouldn't if they are under great pressure and stress," Xiao said.

Sheffield echoed this sentiment and said, "I know it seems silly and I hate to be that preaching adult, but you need to sleep. You need to eat. You need to exercise."

— Sarah Lebr

## Phunds: Committee Reallocates \$10k

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toga party. "That might change, but the essence is that it will be a themed event with DJs — student DJs and a DJ brought from the outside — as the highlight of the event," Mastrangelo said.

Mastrangelo also applauded the members of the committee for drawing on a wealth of campus experience to make their proposals. "It was a great committee composition" she said. "Having someone from every class council, BFC [Business and Finance Committee], Greek Life, Student Life Committee, we really got a diverse perspective of the Kenyon student and their interests. Everyone was really unbiased."

Mastrangelo asked Farco, who served as social coordinator for Greek Committee last year, to serve on the committee and provide the perspective of someone involved in the process last year. "[The makeup of the board] was pretty comprehensive and the students that got to sit in on it each brought very different perspectives," Farco said.

The committee's decision was unanimous, according to Mastrangelo. "They had over an hour-long discussion after all the presentations to find what's a good mix of all the programs that were submit-

"[The committee] got a diverse perspective of the Kenyon student and their interests."

Christina Mastrangelo

ted that really appeal to different audiences and the Kenyon students." The committee tweaked many of the events that did receive funding so that they committee could fund more programs. "A lot of the proposals took up almost the entire \$10,000 we could allocate, so we talked about making some of the events smaller-scale so we could do a bunch of smaller events throughout February instead of just one big thing on one day," Farco said.

For example, the committee moved events from Thomas Hall to Peirce Pub to save about \$5,000. "The logic was looking at the spacing of how we could reduce the sound costs — which are the most expensive — especially when you want to have concerts and things like that," Mastrangelo said. They can even cost more than the performer. When you think about staging, lighting, sound and all that, you're looking at maybe \$5,000. The committee felt that maybe having multi-

ple events with smaller venues would accommodate the different interests that people have."

While the Horn and Pub are smaller venues, Mastrangelo is not concerned that their size will limit the crowds these events hope to draw. "Peirce is the only venue that could fit every student" she said, "[but] not even Peirce can do that except for standing. [And] not everyone went to Phling either."

When deciding which events to fund, Mastrangelo took a number of issues into consideration. "Would this be of interest to students? Would this be cost-effective, with a return of student interest and attendance? Can this student organization pull an event like this off? Meaning, do they have the man-power and volunteers necessary to execute the event? Have they thoroughly considered their budget and the logistics that need to be figured out?"

Farco advised that if a group wants to apply for funding next year, they should "research everything, and in that budget, don't guess. Make sure you contact people to get the right information, ... look at the maintenance fees and talk to people at the Student Activities Office because they will tell you what you need to do to plan an event like this."



BFC: Budget Allocation Results

continued from page 1

funded group. Other organizations did not fare as well. Women's Rugby received only 34.4 percent of its budget request, though the team still walked away with nearly \$4,000. The Stairwells and the squash team were the only organizations that

failed to receive funding. Defending the Committee's decision, Mueller said, "Stairwells asked for personal things. We don't pay for personal expenses." The squash team, on the other hand, received generous funding in the fall, which the BFC believes will carry the team through the spring.

BFC Spring 2012 Budget Allocation Results			
ORGANIZATION	REQUESTED	ALLOCATED	PERCENT
The Horn Gallery	\$26,030.00	\$22,000.00	84.52%
Social Board	\$24,397.50	\$20,700.00	84.84%
Kenyon Film Society	\$13,000.00	\$8,000.00	61.54%
The Collegian	\$11,654.00	\$8,971.40	76.98%
Women's Rugby	\$11,424.34	\$3,930.50	34.40%
Equestrian Team	\$5,940.00	\$5,940.00	100.00%
Outdoors Club	\$5,518.48	\$3,213.80	58.24%
Men's Ultimate Frisbee	\$5,483.38	\$4,767.38	86.94%
Fools on the Hill	\$5,350.00	\$4,250.00	79.44%
ECO	\$4,330.00	\$2,280.00	52.66%
Model UN	\$4,124.00	\$2,377.00	57.64%
Sound Techs	\$3,619.99	\$3,619.99	100.00%
MESA	\$3,490.49	\$2,960.49	84.82%
ISAK	\$3,480.00	\$1,620.00	46.55%
Ballroom Dance Club	\$3,421.05	\$3,421.05	100.00%
Greek Council	\$3,404.66	\$3,037.30	89.21%
Black Student Union	\$3,320.62	\$3,320.62	100.00%
Women's Ultimate Frisbee	\$3,310.05	\$2,815.50	85.05%
OhioACTION	\$3,300.00	\$2,710.00	82.12%
Hika	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	100.00%
Squash	\$2,700.52	\$0.00	0.00%
Persimmons	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	100.00%
Men's Rugby	\$1,681.78	\$1,551.25	92.24%
The Collegiate	\$1,600.00	\$1,500.00	93.75%
Kokosingers	\$1,421.88	\$1,421.88	100.00%
Brave Potato	\$1,250.00	\$1,200.00	96.00%
KCDC	\$997.00	\$997.00	100.00%
KC-Meds	\$729.76	\$729.76	100.00%
Chasers	\$758.87	\$758.87	100.00%
Republicans	\$631.66	\$631.66	100.00%
KJAS	\$529.20	\$529.20	100.00%
Renegade	\$520.00	\$520.00	100.00%
Owl Creeks	\$500.00	\$500.00	100.00%
Mock Trial	\$475.20	\$475.20	100.00%
Circle K	\$400.00	\$400.00	100.00%
Take Five	\$286.49	\$286.49	100.00%
Music Society	\$266.00	\$266.00	100.00%
Ransom Notes	\$254.97	\$254.97	100.00%
American Chemical Society of Kenyon	\$245.60	\$140.60	57.25%
Archery Club	\$240.00	\$230.00	95.83%
Stairwells	\$132.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Art History Association	\$125.00	\$105.00	84.00%
TOTAL	\$165,044.94	\$127,132.91	77.03%

News Brief

Search for Football Coach Draws 124 Applicants

Following Ted Stanley's resignation after nine seasons as the Head Coach for football, President S. Georgia Nugent and the Board of Trustees established a committee to find a replacement for the position. The Lords, who are seeking to rebound from two consecutive winless seasons, will meet the new head coach early in the spring semester. In the meantime, the search has received 124 applications to date.

"I'm very pleased with how the search is moving forward," said Dean of Students Hank Toutain, who sits on the search committee. "The process has been thoughtful, thorough and deliberate while also proceeding as quickly as possible."

"The position has been advertised in various publications, including The Chronicle of Higher Education, InsideHigherEd.com, HigherEdJobs.com and NCAA online," according to Toutain.

A quick web search for NCAA Division III football jobs will lead to information on the opening in Gambier. The "job requirements" section of the listing urges the following qualities in prospective candidates: "exceptional leadership, a commitment to working in a NCAA Division III intercollegiate athletics setting, and an understanding and appreciation of the principles that guide Division III athletics."

The ad also solicits candidates with strong written and oral communication skills, solid planning and organizational abilities and a knowledge of NCAA and North Coast Athletic Conference rules and regulations.

"We want to try and move as quickly as we can, particularly because it's so important for recruitment," President S. Georgia Nugent said. It's very difficult to commit to a team when you don't know who you're working with."

"We've been in touch with former Kenyon football players," Toutain said, "seeking their assistance both in alerting us to potential head coach candidates as well as enlisting their help in identifying student-athlete prospects for the class of 2016."

Though Toutain was reluctant to reveal too much information about the current applicants, he remained encouraged by the large number of applications.

"I believe that the applicant pool is robust," Toutain said. "Certainly there are some candidates that appear to be very strong."

The future of the rest of Stanley's coaching staff remains in question, however. While Ty McGuire, who has worked as an assistant coach since 2006, is serving as the team's interim head coach, Toutain declined to comment on whether any current assistant coaches applied for the top job.

—Richard Pera

News Brief

Kenyon Ranked Fifth "Druggiest" Campus in U.S.

A recent study conducted by the news reporting and opinion website The Daily Beast has given the College a new standing in the world of drug culture: Kenyon has been named the fifth "druggiest college" in America, coming behind Bryant University, Dartmouth College, Denison University and the University of Colorado-Boulder, which earned places fourth through first, respectively.

An increasing number of Kenyon students, and terse Internet commenters, however, are questioning the accuracy of the analysis, based on the methods by which the website computed its rankings.

"We are disappointed by this piece of news, especially since Kenyon was not even listed in the top 50 schools the previous year," Substance Abuse Educator and Counselor Mike Durham said. "But when we look at the metrics used to develop this survey, we begin to question its value."

The Daily Beast based 40 percent of its ranking on "drug safety" grades from College Prowler, a website that solicits infor-

mation on colleges from the students who attend them. The number of on-campus, drug-related arrests per year relative to the size of the school and the prevalence of drug use by 18-25 year olds in each college's state accounted for 40 and 20 percent of the scores, respectively. As a result, Ohio's 13th place spot on the list of states with the most arrests for methamphetamines factored into Kenyon's rating.

"The difference maker from last year's survey to this one is probably 'the number of arrests,' which may suggest that law enforcement is active in this particular geographic area," Durham said. "The number one drug of choice on our campus is alcohol, with marijuana a distant second. When it comes to alcohol and drug use, most students tell us that we're probably very similar to other colleges of our size and caliber, but if even one student is struggling with problems associated with drug use, then we have a problem, and our campus is eager and ready to respond with treatment and support."

—Carmen Perry

Village Record

- Nov. 17, 10:34 p.m. — Student in Mather Residence Hall admitted to smoking marijuana. Report written.
- Nov. 18, 1:58 a.m. — Underage student intoxicated on public property. Transported to jail by Knox County Sheriff.
- Nov. 19, 4:08 a.m. — Student requesting medical assistance with injured hand. Initial treatment by Safety officer. Transported to Knox County Hospital for further attention.
- Nov. 27, 12:32 p.m. — Student unconscious in Peirce Hall. Assessed and treated by medics.
- Nov. 28, 4:50 a.m. — Student complaint of stomach pains. Assessed by Safety officers and put in touch with nurse.
- Dec. 2, 11:01 p.m. — Intoxicated student in Norton Hall assessed and transported to Knox County Hospital by Emergency Medical S.
- Dec. 2, 11:43 p.m. — Intoxicated student in Lewis Hall assessed and transported to Knox County Hospital by EMS.
- Dec. 3, 12:06 a.m. — Report of marijuana use in Mather Residence Hall.
- Dec. 3, 12:42 a.m. — Threatening note passed under student's door in Old Kenyon. Knox County Sheriff's Office contacted.
- Dec. 4, 12:01 a.m. — Intoxicated student in Lewis Hall assessed by Campus Safety.
- Dec. 4, 12:38 a.m. — Student in Hanna Hall complained of ankle injury. Student assessed and treated by Safety officers.
- Dec. 4, 1:44 a.m. — Student in Bexley Apartments complained of burnt hand. Issue addressed and treated by Safety officers.
- Dec. 4, 2:20 a.m. — Intoxicated student in North Campus Apartments assessed by Safety officers.
- Dec. 4, 4:29 a.m. — Decorated tree and trash cans vandalized at Horn Gallery.
- Dec. 4, 9:49 a.m. — Student in Olin Library complained of chest and jaw pain and shortness of breath. Private transport to Knox County Hospital for treatment.
- Dec. 5, 5:03 p.m. — Threatening notes passed under student's door in Old Kenyon. The event is under investigation.
- Dec. 6, 3:38 p.m. — Report of glass broken on front door of Duff St.
- Dec. 7, 6:04 a.m. — Ill student in Lewis transported to the Knox County Hospital for further examination.

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# Don't Put Off Paving Middle Path

Few of us can remember a time when Middle Path was not a source of controversy. For years, the Kenyon community has argued about the central artery of our campus, some insisting it remain untouched as a monument to tradition and beauty and others concerned with maximizing accessibility. But even the staunchest traditionalists admit that, during the worst parts of winter, Middle Path causes its share of bruised knees and elbows.

Now, the administration plans to make concessions by adding a hard surface beneath the layer of gravel with the goal of stabilizing the path and improving drainage. While this renovation undoubtedly represents some improvement, it also fails to address the larger problem looming over the Middle Path debate.

As it stands now, Kenyon's campus, despite a recent flurry of construction, remains woefully inaccessible. Students with disabilities that leave their mobility compromised must struggle against the gravel or choose to take alternate routes. Kenyon's website calls Middle Path "the heart of Kenyon," but we allow only able-bodied members of our community easy access to this so-called "defining presence."

Kenyon's administration needs, at this point, to take a definitive stand. Rather than opting for small, gradual steps toward the ultimate goal of paving Middle Path, the College should choose to stand in solidarity with past, current and future students with disabilities and make their Kenyon experience definitively more welcoming by fully paving Middle Path. This gesture would not only open the path for easier traveling, but also say without doubt that Kenyon's commitment to inclusiveness goes beyond rhetorical posturing into tangible change.

— Marika Garland, Erin Mershon, August Steigmeyer, Mara Pottersmith, Caleb Bissinger, Spencer Kaye

# Beyond Vegetarianism: Animal Rights



CONRAD JACOBER

I am an animal rights advocate, but I eat meat. I recognize and abhor the cruelty and injustice done to animals in factory settings and elsewhere on massive, corporate-owned "farms." We should be moved by these injustices in the same way we would have empathy for our dogs, cats or even goldfish. There is no difference with farm animals.

The tendency, however, is to become a vegetarian or vegan in gut reaction to the brutalities we hear about the conditions animals face. But mere lifestyle changes are nowhere near sufficient for the kind of change that is needed. Changing one's diet is a minuscule and surface response to the deep systemic problem of our agriculture industry. There has been a counter-revolution in the treatment of animals and the planet, and

it takes equal measure in the opposite direction to create real change. I agree with Gar Lipow, a reputable environmental activist, who wrote, "After all, we did not get into this mess via individual consumer choice, and we won't get out of it that way either." The problem, as Lipow recognizes, is not a result of individual choices; it is the result of a system of food production, an entire industry that favors animal cruelty and destruction of the environment for sake of ease, efficiency and profit. He is right to say consumer choice will not solve this problem, as it does nothing to castigate the system that has fostered such injustices.

A good parallel to this problem of treating a political issue as a matter of individual consumer choice is the treatment of the issue of slavery in the 19th century. There was a movement at this time by abolitionists to create utopian communes that would produce their own cotton and avoid any slave-made products to combat the injustices of slavery. They fought injustice by abstaining from the slave-

produced commodity market. On the other side of this fight were Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, both of whom wore slave-made clothing, but who made large and well-known strides to abolish slavery, actually freeing slaves and vehemently promoting the abolitionist cause through speaking and writing, respectively. Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass are well-known for a reason: they treated a deep systemic political issue through activism and promoting awareness, not individual consumer choices.

The political consciousness of the issue and the spread of this political consciousness far outstrips vegetarianism in its ability to rectify this systemic problem. If we could create a consciousness coupled with activism that demanded a) regulations be passed to stop corporate abuse of land and animals and b) greater subsidies for small, local, organic and ethical farming to make them sustainable and desirable, we could make real strides towards solving this problem. One

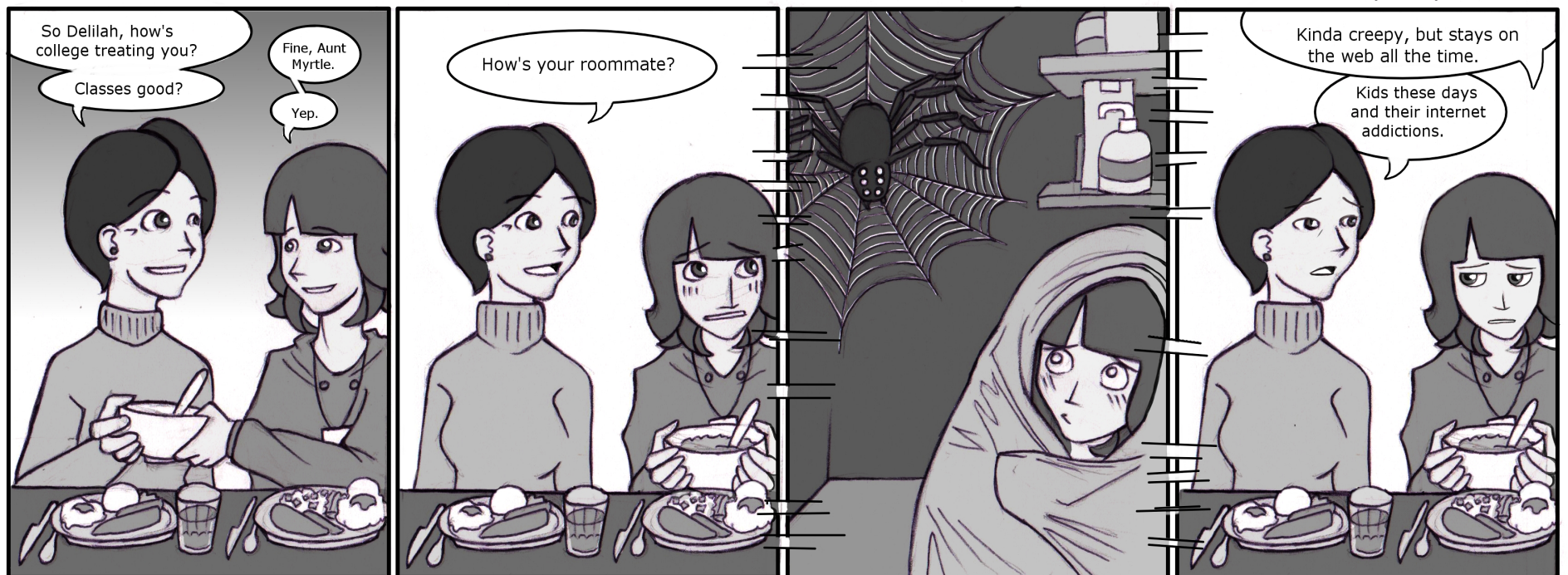
need not stop eating meat to achieve this. We should be able to eat meat that is not the product of cruelty, and we should not allow unethical corporations to deprive us of meat because of their amoral activity. Rather, we should fight these corporations, keeping in mind a strong critique of the neoliberal capitalist system that favors profits and efficiency over sentient beings, ethical action and our very planet.

For those who wish to consume efficiently and frugally outside of this abomination, there are few to no options. People who want to eat meat that has not been the product of cruelty must spend more money and leisure time to do so. In other words, it is an option reserved only for the conscious upper classes, like college students. It is far too shallow a solution to change one's own diet. The problem will continue to exist. We must create a movement that excoriates the systemic basis of this problem, one that lies deep in our neoliberal economic model.

Main source for quotation and info: socialist-worker.org

## Cold Cereal

By Holly Anderson



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# Learn from My Mistakes: No Shame



FRANCES SUTTON

I am surprisingly shameless for a girl who went to Catholic school for 13 years. (This is where people snicker, “You know what they say about Catholic school girls...” Laugh all you want; I spent the majority of high school going to swim practice and watching DVR-recorded episodes of *30 Rock* with my parents, so get your mind out of the *Cruel Intentions* gutter.) If I had to, I might trace this shamelessness back to my father, the man who taught me the value of free stuff. Off the top of my head, I can think of at least three occasions when I went out of my way for a free crappy T-shirt: most notably, the time I sang an a cappella rendition of “I Want It That Way” to a room full of strangers for a free Odwalla shirt.

Where am I going with this? Well, sometimes we do/ say shameless things for a different reason than free Odwalla T-shirts — when we are under the influence of alcohol, for example. We typically follow our faux pas with some sort of apology, communicating that we would have never done/said that thing while sober. (This is the part where Professor Suggs shakes his head in dismay.) Upon reflection, however, I realized that my most shameless, foot-in-mouth moments at Kenyon have definitely been the product of sober Frances.

Now, there are varying degrees of shamelessness, ranging

from “Oh my God, I am *so sorry*” to “Sorry I’m not sorry!” This story falls on the side of the latter extreme, and I’ll tell you why: it’s finals season, and not only that, it’s holiday season, which probably means you’re watching the last 30 minutes of *Love Actually* on YouTube and thinking “Yeah Liam Neeson’s son, let’s go get the sh\*\* kicked out of us by love!” This is the time of year where people are at their most shameless — it comes from a feeling deep inside of manic desperation mixed with extraordinary hope. And so I begin ...

When I was a first year, there was a band at Kenyon called The Dads, and they were amazing. During finals week that year, I happened upon the MySpace music page of Luke Brandfon, one of the members of The Dads (I sincerely don’t recall how this came to be, though I’m sure if I did, I would leave it out of this anecdote because it would probably make me seem like a creep). I don’t know if it still exists, but back then there were about seven solo songs up on his page, and they were all excellent. One of his posts on the page read, “If you want my album, send me an email, and I’ll send you a copy of it!”

Naturally, in my shameless, finals-week mind, I thought, “This is perfect! We go to the same school! I already know your email! I could listen to your songs on my iTunes while studying for 700 straight hours in Gund Commons! *We probably both study in Gund Commons!*” And so, with a lot of hope and very little sleep, I sent Luke Brandfon an email in which I communicated the above thought process, but in a way that was (hopefully) much more articulate and cool (unlikely). And check it: he emailed me

back and sent me a bunch of his songs. Shamelessness: 1, Embarrassment: 0.

While it would be fun to end the story on that note (the “send a love letter to that cutie from A.T., run naked through the library, write Ally Schmaling an email asking her to make you a CD of her singing Kelly Rowland’s new favorite rendition of ‘Motivation,’ go make your dreams come true!” note), we all know it’s much more fun to hear embarrassing stories when we’re in our finals week doldrums than happy stories (human nature is sick like that). Lucky for you, Team Embarrassing makes a comeback in the second half.

Second semester of that same year, I got my own radio show, Adventure Pants, (which is on Fridays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. See? *Shameless*). DJ-ing on WKCO has always been one of my favorite activities at Kenyon, but it can be a struggle to get people to listen in sometimes. That spring, my top listeners were my parents, who would both listen in from work and text me throughout the show critiquing my grammar, song choices and poorly-executed segues. (They still do this; they just don’t listen in as frequently.) In a situation like that, it’s easy to get complacent. So, one day in the spring, I was playing some tunes and scrolling through my email when I noticed an allstu sent by Luke Brandfon. Someone had stolen his guitar and he had sent a very polite email asking for its return.

For some reason, I took this act of theft personally. Perhaps it’s because Catholics take stealing (and the other nine commandments) pretty seriously, or because the music created by that guitar helped me survive my first-ever finals week of college.

Whatever it was, reading that allstu made me incredibly upset and outraged. In a maneuver that many would label “ill-advised,” I took my emotions to the radio waves and delivered a PSA about Luke Brandfon’s guitar, demanding that the sicko (yes, I actually used the word “sicko”) who stole it return it immediately. Then I played one of his songs to drive my point home. One minute into the song, I got a call on the WKCO phone that went something like this ...

“WKCO, Adventure Pants, how can I help you?”

“Hi, Adventure Pants, this is Alex Murphy of The Dads. Me and the guys in the band were just driving around, listening to WKCO, and we happened to hear your message about Luke’s guitar. He’s driving right now, so he can’t really talk, but we wanted to call in and say we heard it and that it was really cool.”

(A smorgasbord of emotions that may have included the five stages of grief and then ...) “Hey, uh, thanks! Well, enjoy the song! Hahaha.”

“Hey, we will. Have a good one!”

What the what? Of all the people listening on *FM radios* to my show at that moment of uncalled-for indignation, it had to be a car filled with The Dads? Unbelievable.

Could it have been worse? Yes. Was that one of the best phone calls ever received in the history of Adventure Pants? Certainly. So, was it a point for Embarrassment? It was at least a jump ball called in Team Embarrassment’s favor, since the memory of that phone call still makes my cheeks burn.

Most importantly: do I regret any of it? Not for a second. Happy finals week, Kenyon. No regrets, just love.

## Concerning: FINALS

“Finals make me appreciate sleep.”  
— Angela Coleman ’12

“I didn’t even get sleep before finals.”  
— Reina Thomas ’14

“Tons of fun ... (sarcasm).”  
— Amanda Somekh ’14

“All my finals always fall on the same day.”  
— Rob Wennemer ’12

“Not really sure when mine are.”  
— Ben Golombek ’15

“It’s stressful because most of your grade rides on the final.”  
— Max Rappoport ’14

“I’m most excited about late-night breakfast.”  
— Rebecca Varnell ’15

“I don’t have any finals ... no complaints here.”  
— Sarah Blair Jenkins ’13

“My consciousness yesterday was totally artificial.”  
— Emily Graf ’15

“Is this for that joke paper?”  
— Cameron Bell ’14

“The things I want to say would make people think I need to be institutionalized.”  
— Paul Bisagni ’12

“The food!”  
— Nick Alimam ’14

“My brain’s empty.”  
— Sarah Krumholz ’13

“Finals make my head hurt.”  
— Pat Kim ’15

“They’re downright atrocious.”  
— Ike Nadwibia ’14

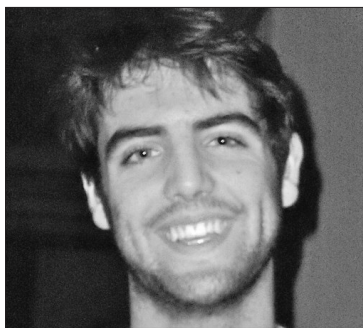
“Everyone is speechless.”  
— Jamal Jordan ’12

# Occupy Wall Street Still Alive, May Benefit from Eviction



PAUL DOUGHERTY

At this point in the evolution of Occupy Wall Street, we have the distinct ability and responsibility to become aware of our current relationship with this unique social movement. The phases of Occupy have an interesting dissonance, which might help explain what it has become, and what it ultimately means. Upon visiting Zuccotti Park in October (pre-eviction), I was quickly overwhelmed by the apparent lack of unity in the square. While it was clear that everyone loitering in the park was highly politicized



JAMES PLUNKETT

and at least passionate about their own ideologies and political affiliations, it seemed to be more of a market for different fringe organizations to publicize their ideas than the grounding of the future paradigm shift of America.

I was lucky enough, however, to sit in on a think tank that was discussing the possibility of a mission statement for Occupy in which about 15 people of different ages, ethnicities and nationalities participated. I woke from my rather naïve conception of Occupy when an older

man sitting on the ground paused in his speech lauding the movement to explain that its best part was that it supplied him an opportunity to talk to fellow Americans. The emotional response and comments from everyone in the group seconded the fact that the true potency of the movement is in its ability to connect people from myriad backgrounds to take down the socio-economic barriers that can often prevent discourse. The Occupy movement post-eviction may not be losing steam, but instead allowing itself a chance to take a retrospective self-critique. Hopefully, this reevaluation will establish awareness that the most important part of this rather nebulous movement is its people — those who truly need a shift in power, who are begging both for a platform to speak and that our attempts at solidarity should not shroud the true voice of a unique moment in history — one of which we need to be continuously aware.

— James

On Dec. 5, Josh Harkinson, a staff writer for *Mother Jones* who has been reporting from Occupy Wall Street since its inception (he was dragged out of Zuccotti Park by the NYPD during the eviction roughly two weeks ago), reported that Juan Pablo Duarte Square was completely fenced off to the public. The Sunday before Thanksgiving, I had the opportunity to meet Harkinson at Duarte Square when a march ended there with the intention of establishing a new camp in the empty lot owned by Trinity Church. We held candles, carried tents on poles and sang as we made our way down 6th Avenue and Canal Street. We marched behind the Council of Elders, a contingent of 20th century activists — veterans of the civil rights, feminist and labor movements — who had passed a torch to us at Zuccotti Park that afternoon. It was a powerful, poignant moment, and I felt lucky to have witnessed it, but ultimately,

the day marked a shift between the two very distinct phases of the Occupy Movement. The movement, like it or not, has only grown increasingly larger since it began. And unlike the empty rhetoric of Obama’s 2008 campaign or the corporate astroturfed nationalist movement known as the Tea Party, it represents the only real alternative to the broken American political structure.

— Paul

We both believe that the movement cannot continue with merely symbolic direct action, but we also cannot capitulate to the moderate demands of mainstream politics and submit ourselves to the very system we oppose. The eviction from Zuccotti Park may prove to be a blessing for the movement, forcing us to stay current and relevant, becoming a dynamic tide of genuine and much-needed change to overcome the political cynicism and cultural despair of late capitalism.



# DANCING

with the  
Kenyon Stars

JULIE FRANCE

Karen Snouffer, professor of art, and Ryan Talk '12 ended the final notes of the song "Let's Get Loud" full of energy. The crowd erupted with enthusiasm, filling the little space left in the Tomsich Arena with its praise. "Muy caliente! This is the couple that's going all the way!" shouted judge Balinda Craig-Quijada, associate professor of dance, before all four judges held up a perfect score of 10.

Snouffer and Talk, the winning team of the Kenyon College Ballroom Dance Club's (KCBDC) Dancing with the Kenyon Stars this past Friday, Dec. 2, had the audience at the first "two-three-cha-cha-cha," based on the crowd's reaction, audience member Kelsey Rice '14 said.

"Just judging from the noise of the crowd, I guessed that they were going to win," Rice said.

Zane Sanders, a Coalition for Christian Outreach Kenyon Campus minister who was in the audience, said he was full of excitement about Snouffer and Talk.

"[They had] a flared-attitude. They were great," Sanders said.

Snouffer was proud of her score and the time it took to polish the routine. "[Winning is] actually great because we worked really hard."

Talk, who also felt honored by their winning title, espoused his love for dance. "Dance is very addicting. I just can't get enough of it," he said.

The biggest drama in this whole experience for me was the realization of how bad I really am [at dancing].

Patrick Diehl, AVI Chef

was less concerned about fun and more concerned about being his own hardest critic.

"The biggest drama in this whole experience for me was the realization of how bad I really am [at dancing]," Diehl said. "I always had a fair amount of respect for dancers since I have no rhythm myself."

Contrarily, judge Alicia Dugas, assistant dean of students for Housing and Residential Life and first year dean, said simply, "You can dance, Patrick. It was slow ... it was expressive, it was rumba."

Even President Georgia S. Nugent was a contestant. She waltzed with Willy Friedlander '14 to Michael Bublé's "Fly Me to the Moon."

Looking back on the performance, Nugent said, "[The performance] was terrifying the other parts were fun. All of the non-ballroom dance people were saying [an hour before the performance], 'Why did we agree to do this?'"

Commentator and Professor of Music Ben Locke, Master of Ceremonies, humorously reminded the judges that "Georgia employs all of [the judges]" before they decided the score. There was no denying, however, that they deserved their score of all nines for their "smooth and gorgeous performance," as Dugas described it.

"[Snouffer and Talk] were our biggest competition, no doubt. They had great choreography, a more flirty dance style, and they are definitely crowd pleasers," Friedlander said.

As for the costumes, an important aesthetic component of ballroom dance, much of the audience agreed that Katherine Baker '14 had the best costume. The dress had an elegant black brocade bodice with a white shimmering long skirt featuring a hem of fluffy white feathers.

"I loved Katherine's dress. It was beautiful, and [Assistant Di-

rector of Housing and Residential Life] Toby Uecker looked great as well," Sanders said.

The event kept true to the show in every aspect, even having the audience text in their votes. The winning team was determined by the audience's votes only, with the judges' scores for public commentary purposes only.

The event also showcased a tango and a foxtrot samba by the Ballroom Team as an opener and a "halftime show." The foxtrot samba took the room by storm when Katharina Devitofranceschi '14 started off in a classic foxtrot with Luke Kresslein '15. Suddenly she ripped off her modest black skirt to reveal a sparkly silver skirt and jumped into a modern samba with the other team members. Kresslein then tried to revive the old-fashioned foxtrot, but he was defeated by the team with a modern dance.

The Ballroom Club members are also hoping that the competition will spark interest in the club from students who never thought to join. The club has their regular practice on Mondays with coach Svetlana Bakalov, competition-level practice on Tuesdays and a beginner-level workshop on Thursdays. All of these practices are held in Kenyon Athletic Center (KAC) room 237 from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

In addition, the club holds salsa lessons every other Wednesday in KAC 237 from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. President of the KCBDC Georgina Leslie '12 said she stresses that "all students, faculty and community members are welcome, regardless of experience, and [that] [no one is] required to have a partner or dance shoes."

From the stunning brochures and posters that looked just like ads for the reality TV show, made by contestant Pamela Faust, executive assistant to the president and provost and ceremony coordinator, to Locke's hilarious commentary, Dancing with the Kenyon Stars was a huge success. Over 300 people attended, according to Leslie.

"We were trying to avoid the Owl Creek concert, and then they changed it, so we

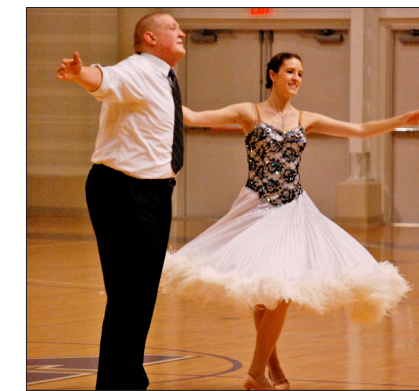


Tom Garvey and Georgina Leslie '12 show off their moves during the competition.

were expecting no one to come," added KCBDC member and choreographer Avery Myers-Regulinski '14, who said she was pleasantly surprised with the amazing turnout, especially for the event's first time.

Having such a huge turnout made all the difference for the KCBDC's honorable cause, The Russian Orphan Opportunity Fund (ROOF). Thanks to ticket sales and a generous donation from Nugent, the Ballroom Dance Club raised over \$1,000 for the Russian charity. ROOF is a charitable organization whose formal mission is to be "a supportive community for children and young people in Russian orphanages and for young people who have previously been institutionalized." This mission has been actualized in many ways by ROOF, such as teaching classes at Russian orphanages, running summer camps, offering job training and much more. Leslie volunteered at one of ROOF's summer camps in Belskoe-Ustye, Russia this past summer.

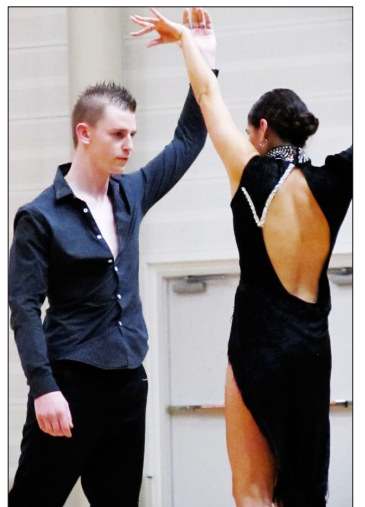
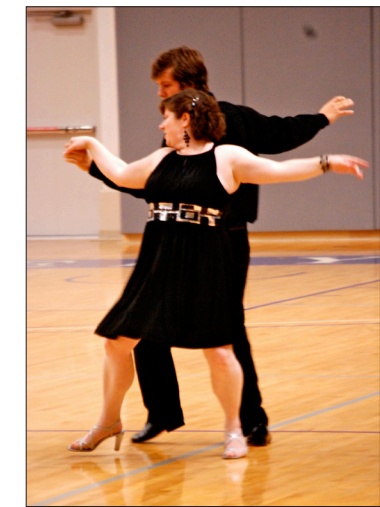
"This is an organization very close to my heart," Les-



Clockwise from left: Tobias Ueker and Katherine Baker '14. The judges show their scorecards; Karen Snouffer ChaChas; KCBDC gathers for a photo; The winning couple Karen Snouffer and Ryan Talk '12.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HOYT AND SAM COLT

Clockwise from left: President S. Georgia Nugent and William Friedlander '14, Pamela Faust and Luke Kresslein '15; Brandylyn Arredondo '14 and Patrick Diehl; KCBDC's tango was a hit; the contestants await the results; Katherine Elkins and Taylor Somers '12.





# ADs Fundraise for Domestic Abuse Center

GRACE HITZEMAN

The brothers of Alpha Delta Phi (AD) have been refining their special queso sauce this semester while also raising money for New Directions, the Domestic Abuse Shelter of Knox County. The fraternity's Afterhours food service, which appeared sporadically throughout the semester, has raised over \$1,000.

According to AD President Aaron Yeoh '12, the brothers value the effect the organization has on victims' lives. "[New Directions] plays a critical role in positively changing the lives of women and children who have been the victims of domestic abuse," Yeoh said.

As public awareness rises, New Directions is struggling to meet local demands, according to Yeoh. "Much of the funding from local, state and federal levels has been cut and the financial situation of the shelter is becoming critical," he said. "We heard about the dire situation of New Directions and unanimously decided that our fundraising efforts would be directed towards the shelter this year."

The Afterhours food service has been AD's main source of fundraising this year, according to Yeoh. The \$3 profit from every \$5 burrito or crepe sold goes to New Directions. The fraternity has raised just over \$1,000 this semester, and it has no plans to turn off the burners anytime soon.

"[We want] to raise about \$1,500 dollars," Yeoh said. "Our goal is to raise the same amount next semester as well."

This fall, eight brothers volunteer three hours every Thursday to cook and deliver the Afterhours food, which mostly consists of burritos. On average, they receive anywhere from 20 to 50 orders each week, but the fluctuation of orders has made it difficult for the fraternity to pin down costs.

"We wish that more people would order each week," Yeoh said. "We buy enough food for about 50 orders a week, and it's pretty disappointing when we barely get any orders."

Fundraising is not integral to the mission of the fraternity, but "it is an activity that we feel is important and something that we have always done," Yeoh said. "We hope that our fundraising for New Directions will positively impact the shelter and help demonstrate the important relationship we feel Kenyon students should share with their local community."

The fraternity is "happy to provide this service to Kenyon students, and we're grateful for the support from our peers," Yeoh added. "We appreciate any feedback about things we could improve and hope that everyone has been satisfied with AD Afterhours this year."

The ADs hope to expand out of the increasingly crowded late-night food market. "If possible, we would like to do another large fundraising event next semester," Yeoh said.

*Afterhours runs on Thursdays from 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Call (740) 427-6774 or visit <http://afterhours.kenyonadp.com> to place an order.*

# Children Celebrate with DKEs



BOB HEASLEY

Will Herrick '14 paints a boy's hand at the DKEs' annual Shawn Kelly Memorial Holiday Party. The party drew many local children, who enjoyed listening to music and making crafts with Kenyon students.

ZOEY ERDENEBILEG

Through the crowd of excited children and chattering parents at last Wednesday's Shawn Kelly Memorial Holiday Party, Taylor Hartwell '14 of The Ransom Notes burst into song with the beginning cries of "The Circle of Life." The famous song from *The Lion King* immediately drew the attention of hundreds of Disney-loving children present at the 21st annual Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE) party. They turned their attention to the stage, resting their scissors, marshmallows and snowflakes. For a minute, Gund Commons seemed to become quieter, until eventually, the kids returned to their festivities.

The DKEs hold the Shawn

Kelly Memorial Holiday Party every year to honor the party's namesake, one of Kenyon's best swimmers and a fellow DKE member. The event has grown in size and popularity, with 386 children attending this year.

In partnership with Head Start, a leading organization in early childhood development and education, especially for low-income families, the DKEs provided dinner, face painting, ornament decorating and other Christmas-themed activities. This event included a visit from Santa and distribution of a total of 400 Christmas presents, neatly wrapped by the DKE brothers.

At the party, one girl approached Abraham Nelson '14, the coordinator of the event this

year, and said, "I want a reindeer on my neck," gesturing to the face paint choices displayed on the table. Her face was decorated with a reindeer, in addition to a star and a striped candy cane on either cheek. "That's going to be hard," Nelson said. Unfazed, she sat down and lifted her head up, awaiting the addition. Three other children patiently lined up behind her.

The Shawn Kelly Memorial Holiday Party, through repeated successes, has become a staple Kenyon College event, according to Nelson.

"[It] is the biggest student-sponsored event of the year," Nelson said. "It's something we're really proud of and that's why we've been doing it for 21 years."

STUDENTS

Gambier Grillin'

Catherine Dwyer '14

Greg Culley '14

Jay Corrigan, Assoc. Professor of Economics

Ruth Dunnell, Professor of Asian History

FAC/STAFF

Totals so far:  
Students: 52  
Faculty: 59

What is the name of the Syracuse University associate men's basketball coach who is being accused of molesting children?	I don't know.	Bernie Fine	Don't know.	I don't know.	Bernie Fine
U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently reinforced ties with what Nobel Peace prize winner?	I couldn't tell you.	Japan	Aung San Suu Kyi	Aung San Suu Kyi	Aung San Suu Kyi
"Dancing with the Kenyon Stars" raised money for what charity?	Race For Life	Russian Orphanage Fund	Food for the Hungry	Russian Orphans	Russian Orphanage Opportunity Fund
How much money did the National Endowment for the Arts recently award Kenyon?	\$2 million	\$10,000	\$250,000	\$300,000	\$10,000
What's the name of the newly discovered planet that is considered Earth's twin?	Isn't it enough that I know it exists?	I don't know.	I have no idea.	I don't know.	Kepler 22-b
Total Correct	0	3	1	2	By ZOEY ERDENEBILEG



# Thoughts on Spirituality

Hillel Director and Jewish Chaplain Marc Bragin has launched a study on spirituality at Kenyon. In the spirit of his goal, the *Collegian* has collected student reflections on religion and spirituality (in gray).

JANIE SIMONTON

Spiritual and religious life is going under the microscope at Kenyon. Hillel Director and Jewish Chaplain Marc Bragin and a number of other

members of the Kenyon community are collaborating to study the current state of religious and spiritual life on campus and determine what needs to change.

Bragin works primarily with the Jewish community, but he also spends time with students of other faith cul-

[he or she] start[s] digging through things," he said. "Because [religious and spiritual life] can be a very personal subject, it could be something people are maybe not comfortable with," Bragin added. "I think me knowing the campus as I do and having the relationships with students and administration that I do, being a chaplain, helps me a great deal to better understand and culminate the questions that we need to have."

Bragin is approaching the study without preconceived ideas about what he will find, and he expects the whole process to take a year or more.

"I'm trying to not see what I plan to find; I just want to find it. Because we all have opinions about things, I'm really trying to stay neutral,

"[I am an atheist, but] I try my best basically to be agnostic, because [the] topic [of religion] ... is sort of a weird one to work around. So many people have so many different ideas on it, and, also, it depends on your definition of God. It's hard for me to believe in [a god], because I don't have a definition of God. I don't have one that I think is right; I've just heard a lot of different ones — omnipresent deity or a spiritual natural force out in the world. And so the reason ... I try to be agnostic is that if God isn't some sort of omnipresent deity, that it's rather just a miracle of life, maybe, or a natural forces thing, I almost find myself tempted to believe that or tempted to think that's real or could potentially be a force in life, but ... I don't believe in a deity. I don't believe in that sense of God. That's definitely where my atheism comes in. I maybe viewed [God] like Santa Claus, where all along you know it's not there, but people [have to] tell you." — Nina Castelli '12

tures. In addition to performing Shabbat services, he works with Hillel House managers Jessie Lieberman '14 and Dan Solway '14, former Dean of Academic Advising Liz Keeney and the Board of Spiritual and Religious Life. They meet monthly and work with all religious groups on campus.

"We know [having a religious and spiritual community is] important, and we know this is something the students need and want on campus," Bragin said. "So, the next question is: how do we know what's happening now, and how can we best accommodate what the students are looking for, if they know, within religious and spiritual life?"

Bragin has devised a plan to find answers to those questions, using

surveys and town hall meetings involving students, faculty and staff to understand how spirituality is expressed at Kenyon.

Bragin said getting the right people to the right information is one of the

"I believe that the concept that other people call 'God' is manifest in math and science. For me, 'God' is fractals, Fibonacci sequences, evolution, balancing equations, the law of conservation of mass. Other religions say that God set forth rules for mankind to follow — I say that these rules are just what [have] been inherent in our physical world from the beginning. I don't believe in a sentient being that judges or gives rules or is even aware of us at all, but rather that 'God' is a name that can be applied to the phenomenon of the greater pattern evident in everything in life. So, I guess that makes me atheist/deist. I don't really have a name for it — I just think that the way that I feel about science and math ... is the same way most other people who identify a 'god' feel about their version of it." — Elizabeth "Rizzo" O'Neill '15

"I was raised Catholic, [but] I'm not as good as I should be [about living that lifestyle]. [When I think of God, I picture] the dude with the big-ass beard in Heaven, [but I think a better definition would be] a higher being. We really can't know more about Him; we can [only] guess. There are a lot ... of moments in my life where the only way [something] was possible [is] because of some higher power. I think He controls luck, [but] I'm not really sure about the other stuff. They always say science is controlling everything, and I don't really think God controls everything, but He controls a huge part of our lives, definitely." — Ryan Eick '13

most important factors in implementing this study.

"My intention is to form a small group of folks, maybe six [to] eight [people] and really come up with ways to best phrase the questions and how to disseminate them throughout the campus, because it's really important to get the proper information," Bragin said. "For religious [and]

"I'm a Christian, and I go to a Church of Christ. God is just a presence that is always with me and always moving and working with me. ... It's kind of cliché to say that God is love, but it's totally true in my life. God is just this absolutely amazing power of love that, when you feel Him, you show Him to everyone else. I really felt God kind of taking care of me through really bad parts of my life, and maybe I don't [always] really feel Him there, but when I look back, I can totally see him there and protecting me and sheltering me. ... I think God takes events that happen in your life and makes them work for his plan. Sometimes you can make really stupid decisions, but God can take that and turn it around for you." — Melissa Carlson '15

spiritual life, [there are] really specific things to look for, because it's really easy to get into some other realm of question or topic, because it's such a big subject. ... I need those six or seven people really to get us focused and to keep us directed to how we're going to best get this information."

Because of Kenyon's unusual makeup, Bragin said, it takes a certain gentleness to conduct a study such as this — a quality he thinks he possesses.

"Kenyon is a place that I think someone needs to understand before

so whatever information I gather, we can look at it from just a general viewpoint and not make any assumptions," Bragin said. "The plan is for us to find out what's going on now, [then] talk to Dean [of Students Hank] Toutain and the Board of Trustees and work on a plan of action to see where we want to go. So it'll probably be another year or so before we really figure out what we're doing."

Bragin feels lucky to have been given this opportunity to work with people from other faiths to make Kenyon a better faith community for everyone, not just those who share his beliefs.

"Being firm in my beliefs makes [working with other groups] a real pleasure. ... I know and understand who I am, so working with other folks [is interesting]; it's great to see what other people believe and how they function," Bragin said. "You know, there's always another way to look at things. I love working with those folks. So to work with a multid denominational campus, or even those who are spiritual, but might not be attached to a specific religion, is part of the job that I love."

"I follow a Shintoist religion, which was founded in [the] mid-1800s in Japan, called Konkokyo. ... It's not really important [to me] what you believe, but how you believe it and what you do because of it. Konkokyo Shintoists [practice] an animistic religion, which looks at the world as [if] every object has a spirit and every object is a sacred thing. The way Konkokyo looks at what God is, is [as] ... this amalgamation of everything that is physical and everything that is not physical in the universe, kind of like the Force. So, our bodies are part of God, but our spirits are also part of God, and [a] chair is part of God, and [a] building is part of God, but so is the history associated with [that] building. All these sorts of things, these thoughts and emotions, but also these things that make up the physical aspect, all combine to form living beings, and that's what God is. We're all a part of it." — Padraig Duna '14



# Students Perform in Professional Staging of *Don Giovanni*

LAUREN TOOLE

Artists suffer for art. It's an age-old expression that's separated mediocrity from excellence for generations. Piling six Kenyon students into a five-person car to make the hour-and-15-minute trek to Columbus every other night for rehearsal? This appropriately qualifies the six students chosen to perform in Opera Columbus' production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* as sufferers for their art.

Over Thanksgiving Break, Opera Columbus staged a performance of Mozart's comic masterpiece through the Toronto-based Opera Atelier, an opera and ballet company that combines its cast and dancers with local performers.

Peggy K. Dye, adjunct instructor of voice, sang the principal role of Donna Elvira in the production. She chose six Kenyon students to be a part of her choral ensemble.

"The six of us, not all chamber singers or music majors, were part of a 12-voice ensemble that made up on-stage chorus for the production," said Allyson Schmaling '14.

Dye recruited Jeffrey Hechler '12, Julie Dopp '13,

Nathan Huey '13, Lindsey Corbett '14 and Joseph Le-rangis '12 at the end of last year.

"She knew of my interest in pursuing this kind of work," Huey said. "[She] wanted me to have a real hands-on experience with a company."

The group maintained a rigorous practice schedule in the three weeks leading up to the performance. They traveled to Columbus up to five days a week, leaving at 5:00 p.m. and not returning until as late as 11:00 p.m. on most nights. In addition to squeezing into a five-person car until they received permission to rent a Kenyon van, the group also sacrificed their Thanksgiving Break to stay on campus and rehearse every day leading up to the show.

Mozart's opera follows the promiscuous Don Juan as he attempts to outwit and abuse every character until he comes across a foe he cannot outsmart. First performed in 1787, *Don Giovanni* combines comedy, melodrama and supernatural elements.

At the opera's close, Don Juan is faced with a being he cannot beat, a mystically-speaking stone statue, who

drags him to the depths of Hell.

Although the Opera Atelier keeps most of their principals and ballet dancers constant throughout their tour, the chorus and orchestra are in constant flux. Dye, an internationally renowned soprano, was in charge of auditioning and casting the chorus because of her close relationship with Opera Columbus. Those students whom she had not previously instructed in voice lessons were referred to her.

"One of the biggest surprises looking back was how easy getting comfortable with being in that atmosphere was," Huey said. "Practically every singer, the dancers, the conductor and the director were very supportive and kind."

Hechler had a similar experience. "Getting to know these amazingly talented people on a personal level was just a really nice part of the whole experience," he said.

"This was an incredible opportunity," Schmaling said. "I am still reeling at the thought that I have this chance to break into the professional opera world."

The show ran from Friday, Nov. 25 to Sunday, Nov. 27.



Peggy K. Dye, adjunct instructor of voice, selected six Kenyon students to perform in Opera Columbus' production of *Don Giovanni*. Lindsey Corbett '14 (below) and Allyson Schmaling '14 (above) prepare for the show.



ALLYSON SCHMALING

## Hisham Matar Speaks On Libyan Politics, Literature

PAIGE SHERMIS  
AND  
REBECCA DANN

With equal parts wit and solemnity, literature and politics, celebrated Libyan writer Hisham Matar captivated his audience with readings from his two novels and a short lecture on Libyan identity and politics. Students and faculty attended the event at the Gund Gallery's Community Foundation Theater on Thursday, Dec. 1.

Professor of English Kathleen Fernando, who first suggested Matar to her colleagues as a potential speaker, introduced the Barnard College professor.

"I chanced upon a radio interview with Hisham Matar, who with incredible eloquence and self-reflection elucidated the complex contours of the Libyan struggle. It became very clear to me that this was a voice that needed to be heard," Fernando said.

Focused primarily on Libya, a North African nation under Colonel Moammar Gaddafi's brutal autocratic rule from 1969 to 2011, "Matar's writings represent Libyans — both women and men — as thoroughly modern subjects, who display the fundamental desire to live a fully

human existence, free from censure and repression," according to Fernando.

Through the fictional and nonfictional components of his presentation, which was hosted by *The Kenyon Review*, the Richard L. Thomas Visiting Writers Fund and the Islamic Studies Program, Matar illustrated the interferences of Gaddafi's regime, described as "vulgar political kitsch," on the daily life and culture of Libya.

"Libyan literature is almost at the edge of oblivion, it feels to me," Matar said. "The dictatorship developed so many ways to interfere with literature, to undermine the imagination, for if dictatorship is to exist, in my view, it exists against the imagination."

A recurrent theme throughout the lecture was the relationship between writing, politics, literature and history.

Matar opened his presentation with a reading from his 2011 novel *Anatomy of a Disappearance*. The book follows Nuri Al-Alfi, a teenage boy who is forced to cope with the disappearance of his father.

"There are times when my father's absence is as heavy as a child sitting on my chest," Matar began.

Utilizing precise, clear im-

agery, Nuri recalls his father's smoky and leathery smell and soft touch in Matar's text. After reminiscing about reading of his father's arrest by Gaddafi's regime in the newspaper with stepmother Mona by his side, Nuri muses on the "dark tenderness" of his and his father's relationship, which lacks the "emotional eloquence and ease" of the relationship with his deceased mother.

The reading also included the episode in which Nuri and his father meet Nuri's stepmother Mona in Alexandria, Egypt. Radiant and sitting pool side, Mona transfixes Nuri, who initiates a conversation with her. Even years later, after Mona and Nuri's father are married and the latter has disappeared, Nuri possessively contemplates how he had "seen [Mona] first."

Matar's great talent, evident through this reading, lies in his immense skill with imagery and detailed descriptions. Matar describes, for example, the sound of waves at the seaside hotel Nuri and his father used to vacation at after Nuri's mother's passing as "[a] snoring guard dog," and Nuri's mother's eyes were "clean as glass, wide, satisfied."

After reading, Matar explained the struggles that literature faced in Libya, and how

he as an author overcame these repressive measures. The Libyan government targeted writing, as it was viewed as a threat to their reigning dominance. Through the use of literature, people could lash out at the regime and expose its corruption. Gaddafi viewed literature as an entity to exploit in order to market his ideology. As a result, Matar explained, literature was limited and creativity stifled. Writers were confronted with the "temptation to expose the sheer absurdity of the dictatorship," he said. "I had to resist such temptations. I had to act as my own censor ... in other words, my own repressor."

"I don't feel like a Libyan writer," Matar said. "I don't think that writers are from anywhere, really. I'm not sure to what extent it's useful to associate writers with places, is what I mean. I suppose some of my experiences as a Libyan have affected my writing, and some of my experiences as a writer have affected my relationship with Libya," he said.

Matar characterized Gaddafi's regime as intolerant of any form of spontaneity and "violently jealous," having only "hate and contempt" for the individual and the artist. Gaddafi saw literature as an enemy of the

state and writers as targets; to possess the author, and, in doing so, language itself.

Matar next read a short excerpt from his 2006 novel *In the Country of Men*, which was short listed for the Man Booker Prize, and won several literary awards, including the Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize.

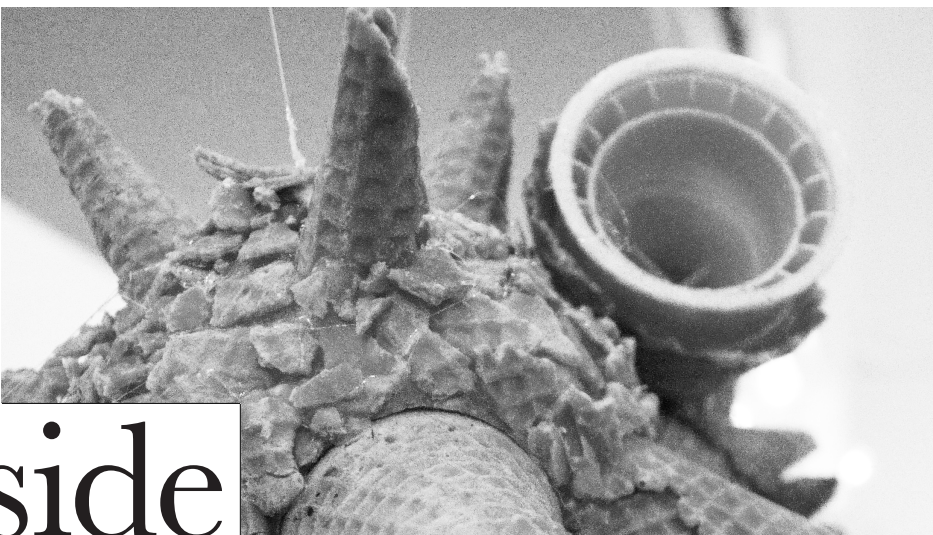
Matar finished his lecture with a condemnation of dictatorship as "a sort of hideous fiction." He used a metaphor of the regime castrating Libyan males by taking away their power. It was this castration, Matar said, that led to Gaddafi's assassination earlier this year.

After his presentation, Matar answered questions with exceptional candor and eloquence — among them, queries about Libyan women and if autobiographical elements existed in his work.

"Everything is autobiographical, and everything is fiction," Matar answered, adding that he is more excited by writing fiction than memories.

Matar maintained a sharp wit throughout the presentation, joking about the premature Ohio 4:15 p.m. darkness and, in one of the preeminent moments of the night, characterizing Gaddafi and similar dictators as "dangerous clowns."





The Open Studio Night displayed the progress that this year's senior studio art majors have made so far. Their final works will be on display in the Senior Art Show this spring. Open Studio Night provided the opportunity to preview the direction that the studio art majors are taking and what viewers can hope to see in the upcoming semester.

ELIZABETH BRAND

# A Look Inside

Senior studio art majors displayed their midyear progress in an Open Studio Night on Friday, Dec. 2 in Bexley Hall.

MOLLY BONDY

In reference to his senior studio art comps, Everett Brodbeck '12 said, "Jus' doin' wha' I wanna." In many ways, this vague statement encompasses the approach the senior studio art majors are taking toward their yearlong projects, which are varied and highly individualistic. On Friday, the larger Kenyon community had the opportunity to view the artists' midyear progress at Open Studio Night. Even though the works are still in beginning stages, it was already evident that the Senior Art Show this spring will be fantastic.

Open Studio Night happens annually around the last week of fall semester. Seniors display their

"I want to explore universal and personal narratives through archetypal characters."

*Bowen Walker '12*

works-in-progress either in their studios in Bexley Hall or in other open spaces (Matt Davis '12 was all the way in the Art Barn). Students and faculty members alike had to climb three flights of stairs (four if you count basement studios) to see each artist, but the trip was worth it. The variety from room to room was incredible, and by the last studio it was difficult not to wish for more.

All majors choose every component of their projects, including important elements such as medium,

concept and display. Some focus on one discipline, such as sculpture or painting, while others combine a number of mediums, like Charlotte Woolf '12, who projected elaborate drawings on her models before photographing them. Others use film, animation, changing lighting and materials found in the natural world.

Conceptually, the artists appeared to be traveling down different paths, although there was a broad sense of the exploration of the self present in nearly

all of them. This examination came across in diverse ways. Though Bowen Walker '12 did not feel "that far into the project conceptually, if I had to take a crack at it, I'd say I want to explore universal and personal narratives through archetypal characters," he said. His large, welded, human figures express an investigation of the body, both on an individual and common level. They are simultaneously generic in terms of form and unique through their actions and expressions. Sarkis Anusbigian '12 also draws from a personal place in his weaponry sculptures. Each weapon represents a different family member based on personality or a story he associates with the person.

Davis' work appeared to be more of an inquiry into the physical self. Though this theme was not readily obvious in the formal

elements of his project, "much of it has had to do with physical processes — deeply repetitive physical acts, involving well-known materials such as envelopes and nails, whereby we leave impressions or visual vestiges of ourselves on the world," he said. Davis' intense process has "yielded three broken hammers, thousands of nails shaped anew that'll ascend 17 and a half feet and 1,000 recollected envelopes that've been uniquely shaped and colored by the environment." Kenyon got a glimpse of Davis' interest in the use of envelopes to share a narrative in his beautiful installation piece that spanned Middle Path earlier this year.

Other artists went beyond the self to explore the world around them. Adrienne Wolter '12 intends to create a stop-motion animation film "using layers of cut paper which run

across the display at different speeds depending on their proximity to the foreground," she said. Wolter uses "simple shapes, bright colors and small details; the cut paper elements portray an inevitable journey forward in time." According to the artist, "the piece responds to the simultaneous tragedy of the end of human existence and the beauty of a world reclaimed by nature."

Chelsea Borgman '12 also incorporated nature into her work by "exploring the shapes and qualities of animal nests in nature." Her intent is to elevate these protected spaces found naturally to an almost sacred position.

Though the work is still very much in progress, it was fascinating to witness the direction in which the art was headed. The upcoming spring shows are certainly not to be missed this year.



# Senior Exercise Inspired by Post-Its, Doodles and *Moments*

NOAH HEINRICH

Does art come from the world around us? Is it completely a product of the mind? Or is it perhaps something in between? These questions are at the heart of “Moments,” the senior project of Forde Kay ’12, which went up in the Horn Gallery on Monday, Nov. 28 and closes Friday, Dec. 9.

It’s evident that Kay created these paintings with a clear vision in mind: each painting is minimalist in style, using clear bold lines in black acrylic. The collection stands out because each painting sits on the same background: the familiar, unvaried shade of yellow found on a Post-it Note.

“Three years ago, while I had an internship, I had some downtime,” Kay said. “I was just doodling on a pack of Post-its we had, and I came up with two images: one of a man, one of a woman.”

That particular doodle is now enlarged as part of the collection and entitled “Roadtrip, Spring.” The same post-it doodles inspired the rest of the collection, though the others are original works.

Kay decided to use

Post-its as the basis of his project because they are temporary, usually thrown away without a second glance. Kay said he wanted to capture and formalize these throwaway doodles as examples of the subconscious mind at work, both for the artist and the viewer.

When asked what kinds of subconscious reactions he hoped to provoke in those who saw his paintings, Kay said he prepared himself for anything. “I’m open to any kind of interpretation that they can have. That’s what makes the piece important, is that there is a versatility in reaction.”

The artwork certainly lives up to Kay’s goal of expressing and provoking the subconscious. There is a variety in the imagery he chooses to depict, but a common thread links all of his paintings.

The majority of the artwork shows close-ups of the body out of context, such as a pair of knees with underwear around them, or a zoomed-in shot of two men kissing. The aforementioned “Roadtrip, Spring” is a nonsexualized depiction of the lower halves of a man and a woman.



“Moments,” the senior project of Forde Kay ’12, went up Monday, Nov. 28 in the Horn Gallery and will run through Friday, Dec. 9.

The images are provocative without being unseemly, a line that is all too easy to cross. Kay truly captures a subconscious aesthetic in his paintings,

all half-glimpsed or half-remembered images which tend to stick in the human mind without our realizing it.

For Kay, the two pieces

that define his collection in this sense are “Roadtrip, Spring” and “Summer (2005),” the painting that shows a pair of underwear around a pair of bent

knees.

Kay describes his aesthetic as minimal and geometric. He lists artists Sol LeWitt and Frank Stella as his primary inspirations, and their influence can certainly be seen in Kay’s work.

Like LeWitt and Stella, Kay uses bold lines and colors to create his images, though the paintings in “Moments” are not so geometric as Kay claims his overall style is. He also says that he has been influenced by graphic novelist Jeffrey Brown.

The chance to express these influences made the collection worthwhile for Kay. “It was getting to trust myself more, as an artist,” he said, “taking gambles, in terms of what I was going to put down on the canvas, or board, in this case.”

Overall, Kay is satisfied with both his final product and how it was received. “I’m definitely happy with it. I think the show looks good in the Horn,” Kay said. “And it’s going to be a bitch to take down.”

“Memories” will be shown in the Horn Gallery until Friday, Dec. 9, after which it will be taken down, only a few days before Kay’s graduation.

ELIZABETH BRAND

## Author Lectures on Sexism in Contemporary Politics

Rebecca Traister, senior writer for *Salon*, lectured on the 2008 presidential election and how it brought issues of sexism, feminism and women to light.

LAUREN KATZ

Rebecca Traister commanded the audience’s attention from her very first question: “Who here would identify themselves as feminists?”

Almost every hand shot up. As she does in her new book *Big Girls Don’t Cry: The Election that Changed Everything for American Women*, Traister traced a timeline from the 1992 through to the 2008 elections, featuring Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama and Sarah Palin. She discussed that timeline and the continued influence of sexism in a speech in Brandi Recital Hall on Thursday, Dec. 2.

Traister began by transporting the audience back to the 1992 election between Bill Clinton and George Bush. At the time, Hilary Clinton was one of a growing group of women to hold both a

“Hillary almost became, even if accidentally, the women’s candidate. Clinton made it possible for people to imagine a female president.”

Rebecca Traister

postgraduate degree and a job before the election, but her success won only her a small group of fans.

Traister split Americans into two groups: the group that appreciated Clinton’s success and the group that “disliked the rupture that Clinton created because she did not do what women should do.”

Traister made her way down the timeline by introducing the “waves of sexism” that rose to the surface during the 2008 election. The first wave included the group of Americans from the 1992 election who frowned upon Clinton’s success as

a woman.

Traister referred to the second wave as the point when “we started acknowledging that she was a woman.” Finally, the third wave of sexism came about when Barack Obama became the official candidate.

Traister, a senior writer for *Salon* (an online liberal magazine), covered the 2008 election from a feminist perspective and closely followed Clinton’s story.

Traister referred to Clinton’s success in the election as “something of a miracle.” Even though Clinton was “considered by everyone as the inevi-

table choice,” many tried to bring her down because she was a woman. For example, when Clinton won New Hampshire, many publications, such as *The New York Times*, ran stories about her crying, but not one article came out about “her being the first woman to win a primary election.”

When the election came down to Clinton and Obama, Traister claimed that men were obsessing over the idea that she would lose. “They were partying on her grave like there was no tomorrow,” she said.

Traister was covering Clinton’s side of the election, but she was a John Edwards supporter for the majority of the primary season.

Traister said the moment she became a Clinton supporter came when “Hilary almost became, even if accidentally, the women’s candidate. Clinton made it possible for people to imagine a female president.”

She lost the election, but “she exploded notions

of how women are supposed to behave.”

As Clinton’s run came to a close, Traister transitioned into her ode to Michelle Obama. Traister said, “I never truly felt that spark with [Barack] Obama, but I did for Michelle. She is so awesome.”

Michelle Obama became the target of racism and sexism during the election. Michelle Obama was stripped of her accomplishments and referred to as “Obama’s baby mama,” according to Traister.

One critic of Michelle Obama even said, “The one thing she got out of her big law firm job was a husband.” Traister said that, unlike with Clinton, many feminists did not defend Michelle Obama as the public ripped apart her character.

Traister carried the audience from Clinton to Obama with ease, but the moment she mentioned that she admired Sarah Palin, she received quite a few chuckles and gasps from the crowd.

Though Traister did not back down she did admit, “I disagree with every word that comes out of her mouth,” Palin created another model for women in America, according to Traister.

Palin was a woman in politics with a family and, unlike Clinton, she did not have to marry power, but rather earned it. Traister soon came to respect Palin as she did Clinton. “Palin was completely off the rails, but refused to leave,” she said.

Traister ended her lecture with the statement that “not all of our social progress is beautiful.” In order to welcome the great women and other minority candidates, America also has to make way for some disappointments.

From Traister’s lecture, however, the audience can also take away the idea that through all of the remaining racism and sexism, there remains hope and people who refuse to back down in their goal to make this country better.



## Lords Swimming Places Second

ROB WENNEMER

The Kenyon Aquatic Center was full of action this past week as swim teams of both Division I and Division III standing competed in the Total Performance Swim Camps Invitational. The Lords finished runner-up to the University of Pennsylvania Quakers by a score of 1,572-1,216.

The three-day meet, which began on Dec. 1 and lasted until Dec. 3, also included teams from Davidson College, Carnegie Mellon University and Grove City College.

"I was very pleased with how the guys approached this meet," Head Coach Jim Steen said. "We didn't put as much emphasis on this meet as we have in the past, yet [we] still had some performances that led the country."

To better prepare themselves for meets in the spring, the Lords intentionally put themselves at a disadvantage. "The guys didn't rest as much for this meet, nor did they shave," Steen said. "[These are] factors which are a big deal in swimming."

The Lords' long-distance swimmers went to work on Thursday in hopes of gaining a head start on the leader board. A fourth-place finish in the 1,650-yard freestyle by Andrew Chevalier '14 proved Kenyon's best individual performance of the evening, with a time of 15:58.50.

This mark, in addition to a third-place finish in the 800-yard freestyle relay, spearheaded a 99-point night for the Lords, landing the squad in second place behind Pennsylvania.

Kenyon's 200-yard freestyle relay group set the tone for Friday's competition after sprinting to a first-place finish in the event. Zack Turk '12, David Somers '12, Ian Stewart-Bates '13 and Ian Richardson '14 had

the winning time of 1:20.99.

This mark fell below the NCAA's 'A' standard (1:21.50), automatically qualifying the group for participation in the 2012 NCAA Division III championships in Indianapolis.

Somers stopped the clock first for a second time Friday evening, claiming victory in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 20.53. His effort was just a quarter of a second short of making the NCAA's 'A' standard, which is 20.39.

"The upperclassmen who have been through this meet did especially well," Steen said.

Even with these impressive performances, the Lords were unable to catch up to the Quakers by the day's end, as Pennsylvania led Kenyon 799-681.

Saturday was the Lords' final shot at stopping the University of Pennsylvania from winning its second consecutive Total Performance Swim Camps Invitational title.

Stewart-Bates gave Kenyon a good shot at doing so with a win in the 100-yard freestyle. His mark of 44.84 surpassed the 'A' standard, qualifying him for a second event in the NCAA Division III championships.

Kenyon captured another event win later in the day; the Lords left all other swimmers in their wake during the 400-yard freestyle relay. The first-place time of 2:59.01, made possible by Stewart-Bates, Somers, Richardson and Curtis Ramsey '13, accounted for yet another 'A' cut time.

After all scores had been accounted for, the Division I Quakers emerged victorious, edging out Kenyon. Davidson took home third-place honors with 615 points, while Carnegie Mellon and Grove City brought up the rear with scores of 511 and 319, respectively.

## Ladies Basketball Enjoys Recent Three-Game Winning Streak

MEREDITH BENTSEN

Led by four outstanding seniors, the Kenyon Ladies basketball team achieved an impressive 5-2 record in its first month of play, launching a three-game winning streak. To finish the month of November, the Ladies defeated Case Western Reserve, Carnegie Mellon and Heidelberg Universities.

With a substantial victory over Heidelberg University on Nov. 30, the 2011-2012 Ladies proved themselves a team for the record books. But beating them 71-49 was not enough for the Ladies. Morgan Korinek '12 not only netted 15 points, but in doing so, she breached the 1,000-point mark in her career. Korinek is one of only eight Ladies in program history to reach this career record.

Currently at 1,007 points, Korinek needs only 36 points to tie Anne Dugan '08 for seventh on Kenyon's all-time leading scorers list. Her talent doesn't stop at scoring; the senior ranks fifth on the all-time rebounders list at Kenyon with an impressive 631 career rebounds.

Korinek's record-breaking is not surprising. Her talent on the court is fluid and natural, but she is always looking for improvements, and she was critical of the Heidelberg game despite the win.

"While we were happy to come away with a victory at the end of the night, we felt that there were times during the game where we didn't play solid defense, particularly in the first half," she said. "We need to tighten up our defense and be aggressive for the entire game."

Sarah Hobbs '15 had a similar perspective.

"[We] had a lot of turnovers, and our first-half defense wasn't strong," Hobbs said. "Overall it was a solid win, but it showed that we have work to do, especially on defense."

Although the Ladies came out with a decisive victory point-wise, they had to work hard for the win. With 8:21 left in the first half, Hei-



JAMES FARRELL

Morgan Korinek '12 reached a career milestone in the game against Heidelberg University, hitting 1,000 points.

delberg's Kathleen Phillips netted a three-pointer to tie the game 24-24. Kenyon dug deep and finished out the half 41-30, mostly due to the Ladies' defensive push. Kenyon's defense resulted in 19 turnovers and held Heidelberg to eight field goals in the second half.

In addition to Korinek, three other Ladies also reached double digits in the victory. Maureen Hirt '14 scored 18 points, leading the Ladies in scoring for the night. Kayla Ernst '13 and Katie Adlam '13 netted 12 and 11 points, respectively. Autumn Anderson '14 came just below the double-

digit scoring mark, netting an impressive nine points.

The team has a positive outlook for the rest of the season. Andrea Pohly '12 reflected on the win, giving credit to the team. "I think that our victory against Heidelberg was a total team effort and a great way to move into conference play," she said.

Although the night was a special one for Korinek, she agreed with her fellow teammate as she looked toward team victory.

"We are looking forward to what we believe will be an amazing journey this year," Korinek said.

## Kenyon Squash Club Demolishes Denison for First Time

JANIE SIMONTON

For the first time in Kenyon Squash Club history, Kenyon has bested Denison University. The banishment of the long-abhorred rival came on Nov. 15 and, according to Head Coach John Knepper, was largely significant to the team.

"Kenyon's never defeated Denison, but we knew we had a really strong team," Knepper said. "We knew we were going to compete well with them, and we did. We defeated them 7-2, so that was a numerical victory as well as an emotional high for Kenyon to finally achieve that milestone."

Part of the win could be attributed to Kenyon's unique team structure, which succeeds because talent is widespread, not just concentrated in a few star players,

Knepper said.

"We're a good team. We're pretty solid in the middle [and] we've got pretty good depth on the team, [which] helps a lot in a sport where you have nine singles matches," Knepper said. "[With] a lot of teams, you can almost always count on [them] having a lot of strength in their number one position or their number two position, [but] we go fairly deep, I think. That's helped us."

The team's breadth of talent is something Knepper values, but he said he also finds it important that the team's athleticism improves.

"The matches that we've lost have been against teams that are considerably stronger than we are. We'd have to say we knew we wouldn't win those matches, but that wasn't really what we were looking for;

[we were] trying to get some good practice," Knepper said. "We've defeated two teams this year, [however], that were ranked higher than we were. One was Denison and the other was Northwestern."

To keep improving, Knepper said he looks to the matches the team plays against Cleveland's University High School for potential recruits.

"The University School's going to come here and they'll play us, and Denison will come up and they'll play Denison also ... in early February. [The University School will] have some good players; last year we had a reasonably close match with them," Knepper said. "Certainly one of the reasons I like to keep playing them is because they do have an active squash program, and it's a good opportunity

for us to see some high school-level players who [we] might be interested in. We have one player now who is from the University School, Michael Marting ['14]. He's a good player for us, [and] that's through our University School connection."

Unfortunately for the team, their only collegiate competition in Ohio is Denison, which hinders the team's ability to further players' skill sets.

"[Squash] always has been primarily [an east coast sport], but there's very strong interleague squash on the west coast as well. ... The only two intercollegiate teams in Ohio are Denison and Kenyon," Knepper said. "It's a challenge. ... This year I was able to put together by far the most ambitious schedule we've ever had. [But] if we want competition, we're going to have to

go to the east coast, and that's an expensive deal. ... Either we've got to go there or they've got to come here, and ... it's very hard to get East Coast teams to come here because of the expense, and most of those guys can drive an hour and have all the squash they want to play."

Although the team struggles to find local competition, Knepper said he thinks the club is still growing in popularity and appreciation.

"There's an appreciation [for squash] here that wasn't here four years ago. I think we're recognized as an active, successful club sport," Knepper said. "We've developed what I feel is a pretty dedicated team, [and] ... I think the officials of the college appreciate the activity we're involved with, the opponents we associate with and our level of performance."



## Collegian Weekend Sports Picks

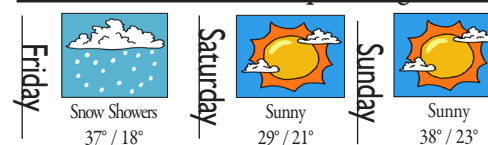
NCAA Division I Football  
Saturday, Dec. 10, at 2:30 p.m.  
CBS  
Army vs. Navy

NFL Football  
Sunday, Dec. 11 at 4:05 p.m.  
FOX  
Chicago Bears @ Denver Broncos

the Kenyon Collegian

# SPORTS

Illustrations by Nick Anania Upcoming Weather



Thursday, December 8th, 2011

## Player Perspective: Football Pride Stays Strong Despite Adversity



BRETT WILLIAMS

This article is not meant to provide solutions to the issues surrounding the Kenyon football program. Its purpose is to provide a player's perspective of the events on the 2011 season. Newspaper articles came out, the administration formed a committee to review the program and a head coach resigned. Players were given some voice via interviews, but throughout the entire process, none of us spoke as ourselves, in a context of our own choosing. While I do not speak for every player, I can confidently say that the feelings I express are consistent with the overall sentiment of the team.

I was sitting in Peirce enjoying my lunch one day when I was suddenly interrupted. "Have you seen this?" one of my teammates inquired angrily as he shoved an issue of the *Collegian* into my

hands. "Some kid wrote an article about us, and I'm not sure if it's sarcastic or not." The date was Sept. 29, and the article was "Endearing Underdogs: Football Underappreciated" by Ryan Baker. I took the paper from him and read the article. As soon as I finished, I read it again, this time analyzing every word and wondering if Baker truly meant what he wrote. Even as I came to the conclusion that this was a sincere attempt to stir up a fan base for us, I was considering what I wanted to write in the response I was planning to submit for the next week's *Collegian*.

I never wrote that response. I thought about it every now and then and wondered if Baker's article would make any sort of impact. It did not, at least in terms of producing a larger fan base. What it did do, however, was signal the impending surge of interest in the Kenyon football program. Roughly a month after the article was published, we reached the two-year anniversary of our last win. This event garnered some press, as was expected, but it was much more than I or anyone else on the team had imagined. The Oct. 20 issue of the *Collegian* was largely focused on our plight, featuring Caleb Bissinger's report on the administrative review of the program on

the front page. I heard people discussing our situation in Peirce, on Middle Path, in the library. In places where we had only previously existed as white noise, we were standing directly under a spotlight brighter than on any Saturday afternoon on McBride Field.

The team's reaction to this sudden spate of attention was mixed. Some guys were worried, and speculated that the 2011 season could be our last. Some decided that, after the season, major changes would be made. We needed to get used to the idea of Kenyon without the coaches that were integral to bringing us here. All of us were on edge.

To be a football player at Kenyon is an interesting experience. Football requires incredible amounts of discipline and dedication, along with a sense of respect for those in charge and a willingness to put absolute trust in a system over which the individual has no control. In football, arguably more than in any other sport, the individual must concede to the concept of the team. This concession refers to more than just time spent on the field playing the game. As a football player, one's mindset must consider the interest of the team in most every situation. On the hill, however, we are taught

to think for ourselves, to question (some types of) authority and ultimately to become our own people using the things we learn in our four years here. The issue is that these two concepts are completely opposite. A Kenyon football player must find a balance between these two ideologies just as he must find a balance between practice and homework.

I will not waste space discussing our schedule (22 hours dedicated to football a week, not counting game days) or try to win sympathy through heart-wrenching accounts of doing all the work only to come up short (there are 23 of them by now). For most of us, everything that happened this year was frustrating, but not the end of the world. We lost one of our closest friends — whether or not we would like to admit it — in Coach Ted Stanley. Life goes on.

We still have football. That is the most important thing for all of us who remain on the team. Since the 2008 season, 30 Lords have quit. Whatever their reason, football did not matter enough for them to find that Kenyon balance or to endure the "agony of defeat" and stay committed. This is fine for those of us left. We understand how hard it is to play football here, and how it is even harder to

do everything and lose. The reasons that others quit are the very reasons we stay. We need to have that chance to win, even if it is not until the final whistle blows senior year, or ever. That is not to say that once we win, everything will be fulfilled. It just means that football is worth so much to us that we will foolishly chase that slim window of success no matter the conditions or odds.

So, do not feel pity for us. We are frustrated about the 2011 season, that much is certain, but we will not let that frustration consume us. We will use it. Thank you to everyone who has supported us, from the girl at an Old Kenyon party who grabbed my arm and drunkenly announced that she "really hopes that you guys win," to President S. Georgia Nugent, who decided not to simply disband the team and leave us in dire straits like Colorado College, a similar school where the administration cut football entirely. Other articles can be written about what exactly it is that football contributes to Kenyon, and if that time comes I will be on hand to prove our worth. Until then, all I can say is that we plan on looking at the future as a challenge and will approach it in the only way we know how: as Lords.

## Ladies Swimming Places Second



JAMES FARRELL

Alisa Vereshchagin '12 swam in the meet at the Kenyon Aquatic Center this past weekend.

### ANNA DUNLAVEY

As stress began to pile up on the Hill, Kenyon Ladies swimming had a strong finish at the Total Performance Swim Camps Invitational meet. They had 1,071.5 team points in the three-day meet, placing second behind Division I University of Pennsylvania.

Hannah Saiz '13 led the Ladies, finishing in second place with a time of 55.90 in the 100-yard butterfly. With this time, she automatically qualifies for nationals in March. Saiz's time in the 200 butterfly also set the varsity record and is now the top time in the country, according to Women's Swimming Head Coach Jessen Book. Syd Lindblom '14 also stood out, and her time in the 1650 freestyle was a personal best. She is now ranked second in the country, Book said.

The Ladies had a total of 17 top-

eight finishes. Kellyn Caldwell '12 won the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:05.90, securing an NCAA 'B' cut and enhancing her chances of swimming at nationals. Saiz also swam in the 500-yard freestyle, where she placed fifth with a time of 5:01.39 and passed an NCAA 'B' cut standard. Lindblom and Kiersten Bell '13 took passing 'B' cuts in the same event, with sixth and seventh place finishes, respectively.

In between the standout performances were many other personal bests, according to Book.

"There are a number of other people ... who improved fantastically, although they aren't the top in the country," Book said.

He estimated this meet led to a total of 66 new lifetime best performances.

"It's not as much about beating the other teams in the competition," he said. "It's more about bettering ourselves, as

individuals and as a team."

This meet signifies the end of what Book calls the "first block" of the Ladies' season.

"The first semester is more about getting ourselves back in shape," Book said. "Second semester is all about championships."

The meet this weekend was significant because it resembled the championship meet for this half.

"This meet, for us, was all about preparing ourselves to be the best we can be in February and March," Book said.

The 2011 portion of the Ladies' season is finished, and the break will likely be good for the Ladies.

"For this meet this past weekend, they were offered the opportunity to have a little bit of rest, and that little bit of rest elevated their performances from one level to a higher level," Book said.

## Men's Basketball Loses Twice to Conference Foes

KEVIN PAN

The men's basketball team kept up with the competition in their last two games. On Nov. 30 the team played Wooster College for its first conference game of the year, followed by a 60-59 loss to DePauw University on Dec. 3. The final score of 84-68 in the Wooster game did not reflect how well the Lords played during the game, however.

The Lords surprised Wooster by going into the locker room with a 34-32 lead at halftime, after being down by eight points at one moment in the half. That lead diminished in the second half. Wooster started the half on a 15-5 run, shooting 70 percent to get a lead. Unfortunately for the Lords, they never looked back.

Ikenna Nwadiibia '14 led the Lords with 17 points and Brian Lebowitz '14 was second on the team with 15 points. The first years also stepped up recently. John Bray '15 exemplified this effort by coming off the bench with 10 points and five rebounds.

Though the loss moved their record to 2-3, Head Coach Dan Priest remains optimistic.

"Wooster was a great challenge ... but we were extremely competitive, and I hope it gave us some confidence that we can play with the top teams in the country," Priest said.

The DePauw game, on the other hand, was close from beginning to end. The Lords had a 57-54 lead after a pair of free throws with 1:07 left in the game. That lead disappeared when the Tigers

hit a three-pointer 15 seconds later. Luke Shmuger '15 went to the free-throw line where he hit both attempts to give the lead back to the Lords. Their lead also vanished when DePauw hit another three-pointer to retake the lead, creating the final score of 60-59.

"Close losses are always hard, so DePauw was difficult, but they are year in and year out a program that contends for national tournament berths, so it was progress for us to have a chance to win against such a quality opponent," Priest said.

Julian Pavlin '14 led all scorers with 15 points, including 4-5 from beyond the arc. As mentioned earlier, the Lords are exceptionally young this year, which impacts how they play.

"We are significantly younger than most teams, which presents some challenges and will result in some ups and downs, but our upperclassmen are doing an excellent job of providing leadership and playing beyond their years," Priest said.

Nevertheless, he is optimistic about the future of his squad.

"We have had an incredibly challenging schedule, perhaps one of the hardest in the country as we have played two top 10 teams and several other quality opponents, so if we can handle this tough stretch and continue to improve, I think we get to where we want to be," Priest said. "Thus far we are happy with our effort level and unselfish attitude. We have met expectations of expecting to win each game and being competitive with every team on our schedule."